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## LANDSLIDE VICTORY FOR RAJIV

### Family record for Mrs Gandhi's son

By DAVID CRAVES in New Delhi

MR Rajiv Gandhi was last night poised to lead his congress (Indira) party to an historic victory in the Indian general election, according to computer forecasts based in the first declared results.

It was predicted that he would win 50 per cent. of the popular vote for the first time—a feat never achieved by his grandfather, Mr Jawaharlal Nehru or his mother, Mrs Indira Gandhi.

Computer forecasts given by the state-run television service predicted that the Congress (I) would win 560, and possibly more than 400 of the 503 constituencies in which voting was held.

The Congress (I) landslide became apparent as soon as the first results were announced, and was only halted in three of the 20 states by opposition parties.

Jubilant Congress (I) supporters last night thronged the streets of New Delhi in a cavalcade of cars and lorries to celebrate the victory of India's youngest-ever Prime Minister.

Mr Gandhi spent his day of triumph working quietly at 1, Safdarjung Road, his official office in the Indian capital.

Initial indications were that all but one of the major opposition party leaders were heading for defeat.

Only Mr Charan Singh, 82, the former Prime Minister and

leader of the Dalit Krishak Mazdoor party, seemed certain to retain his seat at Bagpat, in Uttar Pradesh.

Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the former Foreign Minister in the Janata Government, and president of the Right-wing Bharatiya Janata party, was defeated in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, by the Prince of Gwalior, a surprise last-minute candidate for the ruling party.

In Bangalore north in Karnataka, Mr George Fernandes, Secretary General of the Janata party, was defeated by his Congress (I) rival.

The only major setback to the landslide of the Congress (I) came in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh where strong opposition from the Telugu Desam state party led by Mr N. T. Rama Rao, a former film star, caused a 15 per cent. swing against Mr Gandhi's party.

Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao,

had been widespread vote rigging in the seat during voting last Monday.

The three-week election campaign was generally regarded as one of India's most lacklustre because of a lack of credible challenges posed by a divided and splintered opposition.

A spokesman for the Indian Election Commission, maintained it had been one of the most peaceful in recent years despite the deaths of at least 29 people in clashes before and during polling.

At least six people died in violence between supporters of various parties before the first day of polling last Monday. Fifteen were killed during voting on the first day and eight more deaths were reported during the second phase of the election on Thursday.

Counting in the world's largest democratic election began yesterday morning while voting took place in the last three of the 503 constituencies to go to the polls.

As soon as the polls closed in the three seats in Madhya Pradesh and Nagaland in north eastern India, the results were announced.

#### How they stand

The state of the parties after the declaration of 159 seats was: Congress (I) 127; Janata Party 127; Communist Party of India (Marxist) 5; Dalit Krishak Mazdoor 0; Communist Party of India 0; Others 25.

Home Minister, lost in the state, but won a second seat in the neighbouring state of Maharashtra.

However, his Ministerial colleague, Mr Shiv Shankar, Energy Minister, lost in Madhya Pradesh.

Computer forecasts predicted the defeat of Congress (I) candidates in 25 of the 40 seats in the southern state—but that was regarded as a mere hiccup as the party swept back to power.

In 1980 when Mr Gandhi was returned to office after three years out of power she won 45 per cent. of the popular vote and 322 seats, a feat expected to be surpassed by her 40-year-old son.

Latest figures showed he was leading by 75,000 votes in his new constituency in Uttar Pradesh where he had been pitted against Mrs Manek Gandhi, 29, his sister-in-law, who had earlier alleged there

Formidable task ahead  
—P5

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Other obituaries—P8.

## Sterling drifts to new low

By CLIFFORD GERMAN  
Financial Correspondent

THE pound drifted to yet another all-time low against the dollar yesterday and interest rates in the London money markets edged nervously higher.

But share prices ignored the implicit threat of dearer money and the FINANCIAL TIMES 30-Share Index climbed steadily to close 16.2 higher at an all time high of 845.2.

The pound was quoted as low as \$1.570 soon after trading began in Europe, reflecting fears of an oil price war which would erode the Chancellor's oil revenues from the North Sea.

It staged a partial recovery but still closed at \$1.5627 in London, 16 points below the previous low on Thursday.

Commercial demand was almost entirely for dollars, as the impression spread that American interest rates will fall no further immediately.

Deposit costs  
The fall in sterling affected interest rates, with some quotations rising up to 3/16 before settling back to about 1/16 per cent. higher on the day.

The cost of three-month deposits in the inter-bank market on which Barclays Bank aligns its base rate rose 1/16 per cent. up about 5/16 per cent. over the past month.

Up to this level, base rates, which range from 9 1/2 to 9 3/4 per cent. are safe. But a further rise in the cost of money in the market could put upward pressure on bank rates.

Prices of British Government fixed interest stocks drifted up by up to 1/2 p in early trading as a result of the events in the foreign exchange and money markets.

But investors continued to ignore these events entirely, or to assume that a weaker pound represents a selective stimulus to sales of British goods without any corresponding risk of dearer money or higher inflation.

REAGAN VIEW  
Argument disputed  
DAVID SHEARS in WASHINGTON writes: President Reagan yesterday disputed suggestions that the dollar was overvalued and that America should take action to lower its level on world currency markets.

Answers to written questions from a Japanese newspaper, Mr Reagan said that arguments that the high dollar threatens global recovery were not supported by the facts. During his administration, interest rates had not generally played a major role in determining exchange rates.

City Comment—P17  
City Report—P18  
Editorial Comment—P14

## U.S. ECONOMY STARTING TO PICK UP AGAIN

By Our Washington Staff  
Further evidence that the American economy is picking up momentum again after its slowdown of recent months came yesterday from the official Government barometer of economic trends.

The index of leading economic indicators, a composite of 12 forward-looking economic measurements, climbed 1.3 per cent. in November, its highest gain in nine months.

But at the same time the Commerce Department reported that the American merchandise trade deficit reached \$9.9 billion (\$8.5 billion) last month, rising more than seven per cent. above the October level.

For the whole January-November period the trade gap was \$115.4 billion (almost £100 billion), a 33 per cent. increase over last year's record trade deficit of \$86.4 billion (almost £80 billion). The surge in value of the dollar is largely to blame.

Continued on Back P. Cnl 6

REAGAN WARNS  
AGAINST ARMS  
TALKS OPTIMISM  
By Our Staff Correspondent in Los Angeles  
President Reagan cautioned yesterday against hopes being raised too high for the Soviet-American arms control talks between his Secretary of State, Mr Schultz, and the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Gromyko, in Geneva next month.

City report—P17



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Runcie, looking at a copy of the Karan, a gift from Col Gaddafi, which the Archbishop's special envoy, Mr Terry Waite, handed to him in Canterbury yesterday on his return from Libya. Mr Waite informed him of his efforts to secure the release of the four detained Britons. Report—Back Page.

## Minister 'knew of priest kidnap plot'

By ROBIN GEDYE Diplomatic Staff

A POLISH deputy Interior Minister was aware of the kidnapping plot which resulted in the death of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the pro-Solidarity priest, according to one of the policemen accused of his murder.

But Lt Leszek Pekala, 52, giving evidence yesterday on the second day of the Warsaw trial of four policemen charged in connection with the murder of Father Popieluszko, did not name the Minister.

Lt Pekala also withdrew allegations that the Minister had approved the murder, as said he had been told about him by Capt Grzegorz Piotrowski, 33, one of the four security policemen on trial.

There are six officials of deputy ministerial rank at the Interior Ministry, according to the government spokesman's office.

Lt Pekala, Lt Waldemar Chmielewski, 29, and Capt Piotrowski are charged with murdering the priest. Their Interior Ministry superior, Col Adam Pietruszka, 47, is charged with inciting them.

Lt Pekala, the first of the four accused to give evidence, referred to other possible victims, including Father Henryk Jankowski, Lech Walesa's priest and adviser.

He denied that the policeman intended to kill Father Popieluszko.

"It was to have been an abduction with the possibility of jeopardising his health. It was never officially stated that Popieluszko must die," Lt Pekala said.

He said that the priest, kidnapped on Oct. 18, pleaded for mercy crying "spare my life you people," before being beaten unconscious.

He was beaten four times. Continued on Back P. Cnl 6

REAGAN WARNS  
AGAINST ARMS  
TALKS OPTIMISM  
By Our Staff Correspondent in Los Angeles  
President Reagan cautioned yesterday against hopes being raised too high for the Soviet-American arms control talks between his Secretary of State, Mr Schultz, and the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Gromyko, in Geneva next month.

"A two day meeting cannot solve the complicated issues before us," he said in an interview with a Japanese newspaper.

"We hope it will be a constructive beginning for further detailed negotiations. But it isn't as easy job."

City report—P17

## BEAUFORT GRAVE ARRESTS

By GRAHAM JONES

A WOMAN and four men were being questioned last night by detectives investigating the attempt to dig up the body of the 10th Duke of Beaufort, from its grave in the grounds of Badminton House, Glos., on Christmas night.

The five were held during raids in Edmonton, North London, and Hertfordshire by Avon and Somerset and Hertfordshire police.

After questioning at Hertford, the five were taken to Staple Hill police station, north Bristol.

Charges under the Burial Act of 1857 are expected today.

Among items recovered by the police was the simple wooden cross erected by an estate worker to mark the grave of the hunting duke, who was a friend of the Queen.

The 10th duke, who founded the Badminton Horse Trials, was Master of the Beaufort Hunt for many years, died in February aged 83.

'Turkey damage' charge  
Two adults and two juveniles were charged at Grimsby magistrates court yesterday with damaging a turkey at a local store on Dec. 5 and "being reckless as to whether life would be endangered by their actions." All were remanded for a week, with the adults being held in custody.

'Brick wall'  
Fog and ice held much of Britain in a tight wintry grip last night. At one stage visibility was down to ten yards at the junction of the M25 London orbital motorway with the A1 at A6 at South Mimms, Hertfordshire.

It's like driving into a brick wall—certainly the worst fog reported this winter and probably for years, an AA spokesman said.

The fog also caused several flights at Heathrow Airport to be cancelled or diverted.

LATE NEWS  
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BAXTERS SOLD  
Brooke Bond, the tea and food company that has just been taken over by Unilever in a £280 million deal, is selling its Baxters hutchers chair for £24 million to the Vesty company, Unilever International, owners of the Dewhurst chain.

City details—P18

Today's Weather  
GENERAL SITUATION: Pressure will remain high in S.E. with frontal trough becoming slow moving in N. and W. parts.

London: S.E. E. Exposed: E. A.G.W.: O.V. fog mostly clearing, sunny periods; developing, mild, mild, plus a light drizzle. Wind S. light or moderate, 32F-40F. S.W. ENGLAND, S. N. WALES: Mostly cloudy, rain or drizzle at times, but and coastal fog. Wind S. moderate or fresh, 40F-50F.

S. NORTH SEA, STRAIT OF DOVER: Wind S. force 1 becoming 4-5. Sea: smooth, becoming moderate. S.W. ENGLAND, S. N. WALES: Mostly cloudy, rain or drizzle at times, but and coastal fog. Wind S. light or moderate, 32F-40F. S.W. ENGLAND, S. N. WALES: Mostly cloudy, rain or drizzle at times, but and coastal fog. Wind S. light or moderate, 32F-40F.

Outlook: Remains mostly cold and dry in S.E. with overnight ice and frost. Rain at times in N. and W.

Weather Map—P25

## NCB hopes to repeat 'back to work' surge

By STEPHEN WARD Industrial Staff

THE Coal Board is hoping that a renewed publicity campaign beginning on Monday will attract striking miners back to work at the same rate as the last big "push" in November.

Press advertisements and letters to miners' homes will point out, with a "carrot and stick" approach, the advantages of returning to work.

The "carrot" is the prospect of tax-free earnings up to the end of the financial year on March 31.

A married man is allowed to earn up to £3,115 in any year before he starts to pay income tax.

Average gross earnings of miners are £183 a week, which means they can expect total gross earnings of £2,376 between January and the end of March, 1985.

The £238 in holiday allowances which miners can claim when they have been back for four weeks will also be tax-free, taking the average amount miners will earn during the first quarter of 1985 to £2,667.

Stocks hold up  
The "strike" which the Coal Board will be using is the fact that with coal stocks holding up well and increased oil burning at power stations the board can hold out for another year or more, if necessary.

A strategically important target for the Coal Board is to get more than half the NUM membership back at work so that it could be claimed that the union had "voted" with its feet "against the strike."

At the moment almost 70,000 of the 129,000 NUM members are defying the strike, in another 20,000 are needed to achieve a majority.

At the start of November's drive to get miners back to work more than 10,000 NUM members returned in a fortnight. But the rate slowed down to the weeks up to Christmas.

TOMATIN WHISKY  
PLANT TO SHUT  
By Our Commercial Correspondent  
Tomatin distillers yesterday announced it is to close after five years of losses. It has one of the biggest distilleries in the Highlands, able to produce over 12 million litres of alcohol a year, but most of its 65 employees are all in London headquarters.

Tomatin has been a supplier of whisky to other distillers, rather than one marketing directly to the public. Failing sales have resulted in major firms making more use of their own malts, cutting down on buying from Tomatin.

City report—P17

## MONTE CARLO RALLY BACK ON AGAIN

The Monte Carlo rally, cancelled on Thursday was on again yesterday. The Automobile Club of Monaco said that the 55th rally would begin Jan. 25.

Just 24 hours earlier, the club had said it was cancelling the competition because of a dispute with the French motor sport federation about fees for running parts of the rally that take place in France. The two clubs met yesterday and agreed to run the rally on 1984 terms.

Details—P25

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# BE READY FOR STRIKE, RAIL UNION TOLD

By OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

MEMBERS of the National Union of Railwaymen have been warned by their leaders that they may have to strike "to save their industry" in 1985. In his New Year message Mr Knapp, general secretary, says: "Conflict may prove unavoidable."

He says he fears Government policies to cut public spending will hit the railway network, and strikes and other disruptive action may be the only way to fight back.

## POST OFFICE UNION SEEKS NEW NAME

By STEPHEN WARD

Industrial Staff

THE Post Office Engineering Union, which is looking for a new name because it has fewer than a twelfth of its members working for the Post Office, is deeply split over what to call itself.

Its search for a title has been on since 1980 when British Telecom was bled off from the Post Office.

To the annoyance of the Telecom engineers, the Postal Workers' Union set in first to retitle itself with the most obvious choice, the Union of Communication Workers.

A consultancy hired to think of a name came up with the Association of Communications Employees, but this has been objected to because it lacks the word "union".

A cumbersome alternative favoured by some union leaders is the Communications and Information Services Union.

### Open choice

There will be no formal recommendation to a conference in February which has to decide on a new name, but branches have been asked to send in their suggestions.

One has already suggested Postal Labour and Engineers Brotherhood and Sisterhood (P.L.E.B.S.), which would be unlikely to help the union in its attempt to recruit more widely in the private telecommunications sector.

### MANAGERS

## 'MUST LEAD FROM FRONT'

By Our Business Correspondent

Managers were told by Sir Peter Parker, chairman of the British Institute of Management, yesterday to lead from the front and step up efforts to improve competitiveness next year.

Sir Peter, in a New Year message to the Institute's 75,000 members, said that improved competitiveness must be the organisation's "justified obsession".

There were outstanding examples of success in management and services, but the performance of many others had to be raised.

## Tory anxiety over bus services plans

By JOHN PETTY Transport Correspondent

THE risk of another humiliating defeat for the Government is forcing the four transport ministers to travel the country to rally support for plans to end controls over local bus services.

Mr Ridley, Transport Secretary, has already had to delay two other key measures and his department is under severe criticism to several other areas.

A legal dispute made him postpone denationalisation of British Airways, while opposition by Conservative MPs over Standed being developed as the third London airport has made him shelve the Aviation Bill.

There is mounting Conservative anxiety over "complacency" by his department over the rapid decline of the Merchant Navy, and much criticism of the "weakness" of the current "don't drink and drive" campaign.

There are also complaints about failure to have adequate warning signs, lighting and service stations on new motorways, and doubts over some aspects of the policy towards British Rail.

Now the proposed Bus Bill is arousing opposition among many Conservatives in both the shire counties and urban areas. It is also angering many owner-driver coaches, many of whom have been Conservative voters.

The Bill will allow almost unfettered competition on local bus routes outside London. At present, only long-distance coaches are permitted to operate in this way.

It means cut-price operators will move on to profitable town routes, compelling existing operators to reduce their fares. But that means it will no longer be possible to maintain loss-making country routes out of profits on town services.

Many rural services are likely to disappear. And many local Conservative politicians fear

"So, unless our alternative strategy swings the pendulum back towards sanity, we may well have to turn to our members to save the industry. The storm clouds are gathering, and we can't wish them away."

But a rebel railwayman who has tried to leave the NUR to form a breakaway moderate union claim they have been told they must belong to either the NUR or to the other recognised British Rail union, Aslef, and cannot leave.

Mr David Gladwin, a spokesman for the Federation of Professional Railway Staffs, which has about 1,500 members but is not recognised by BR, said a member of his federation in Derby had asked the management to stop deducting their union dues for the NUR from his pay packet.

'Condition of service' A British Rail official in Derby had written to the employee drawing his attention to the fact that at the present time it is a condition of service that British Rail employees must be members of a trade union recognised by the Board. "He was also asked in the letter which union he belonged to."

Under the 1982 Employment Act all closed shop agreements must be terminated unless confirmed by 80 per cent of employees affected, in a secret ballot. BR has held no such ballot.

A British Rail Board spokesman said: "We cannot insist on anyone remaining in a trade union. We are in talks with trade unions about the end of the closed shop, and it is not correct to say that an employee should be a union member."

Three railwaymen who were dismissed by British Rail in 1978 for refusing to join a closed shop appealed successfully to the European Court of Human Rights.

In 1981 the Court ordered the British Government to pay the three a total of £145,000 in compensation and costs.

## GO-AHEAD OVER NEWSPAPERS

United Newspapers, the newspaper and publishing group, was yesterday given the go-ahead by the Trade and Industry Department to take over the "free sheet" newspaper owned by the Yellow Advertiser Group.

The move is part of United Newspapers' £22.3 million takeover of Link House Publications, which owns a 51 per cent stake in the Essex-based Yellow Advertiser Group. Under the Fair Trading Act, certain transfers of newspaper ownership have to be referred to the Trade Secretary.

## HOSPITAL BRANCH 'TO SHUT'

By DAVID FLETCHER

Health Services Correspondent

THE Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital is planning to close one of its two London branches as an economy measure, although this will mean that not all its patients can be treated, it was disclosed yesterday.

The hospital, based on two sites, has long been planning to spend £2 million expanding its Gray's Inn Road branch so that its branch in Golden Square, Soho, can be closed.

But Bloomsbury Health Authority which is responsible for the hospital is facing a deficit of £4 million in the next financial year and is planning to go ahead with the closure of the Golden Square hospital without expanding facilities at the Gray's Inn Road site.

A meeting of the health authority has been called early in the New Year to decide whether to proceed with the closure, planned for February, to save the £1,100,000 a year running costs of the Golden Square hospital.

Mr Tim Matthews, Bloomsbury district administrator, said that the 40-bed Golden Square hospital treated 3,500 in-patients a year plus a further 10,000 out-patients.

He said: "The out-patient work can be accommodated at the Gray's Inn Road hospital with a certain amount of squeezing and difficulty and some minor rebuilding work."

But it will not be possible to accommodate all the in-patients and we estimate we shall only be able to transfer 11 of the 19 operating sessions at present, carried out at Golden Square."

### Waiting time

Waiting time for appointments at Gray's Inn Road is already running at six months and this will inevitably increase if patients continue to be referred to the hospital.

Mr Matthews said: "It does not follow that the waiting list will increase pre-emptively because GPs may refer patients elsewhere."

"We very much regret the proposed closure of Golden Square without first expanding facilities at Gray's Inn Road but like other London health districts we are under tremendous financial pressure."

The Golden Square hospital occupies a prime site and its sale could raise several million pounds for the health authority in planning permission can be obtained for redevelopment.

## NAT WEST RAISES INTEREST RATES

By Our Financial Correspondent

National Westminster bank yesterday announced increased interest rates on deposit and savings accounts to take effect from Tuesday. The bank will also start deducting tax at the new composite rate instead of paying interest gross.

The gross rate on three-month term deposits goes up from 9½ to 10 per cent, and on six-month deposits from 9½ to 10 per cent. Home saver and mortgage saver rates are unchanged.

## PEKING'S PRAISE FOR THATCHER

By HUGH DAVIES in Peking

China profusely thanked Mrs Thatcher yesterday for healing the "wound to the hearts of the people" allegedly caused by the 1842 Treaty of Nanking ceding Hong Kong island to Britain in perpetuity.

Peking's most influential English-language publication, the *Review*, described Mrs Thatcher as "sagacious and realistic" with a stateswoman's foresight in judging the hour.

### ITALIAN HOLIDAY

By Our Rome Correspondent

One hundred children of striking British miners arrived in Rome and Bologna yesterday in two charter flights to spend a fortnight in the houses of Italian trade unionists.

Bargain hunting American tourists inspecting sweaters in Selfridges yesterday when they enjoyed the double advantage of the January sales and the increasing strength of the dollar against the pound.

## Britain needs peaceful revolution, says Benn

By OUR POLITICAL STAFF

THE Labour movement has failed to change the power structure of Britain even when in office, and now faces a more formidable and deep-seated crisis than is generally realised, Mr Wedgwood Benn said yesterday.

Writing in *Marxism Today*, the theoretical journal of the Communist party, Mr Benn argued that Britain needed a "comprehensive, peaceful and democratic revolution... and that it must include equal changes within the Labour and trade union movement."

There was a morale and self-confidence, with the lesson of 1984 being that "if you fight, you win, and if you fudge, you fail."

While this message was put in the abstract, it will be widely seen as criticism of Mr Kinnoch whose failure to support the miners' strike outright has infuriated the "hard Left."

A rash of speculation that the Labour leader might face a Left-wing challenge for his job at the party's Bournemouth conference in September was ridiculed yesterday by Mr Martin Flannery, MP for Sheffield Hillsborough.

But Mr Flannery did state that there was "deep anger throughout the Labour movement at Mr Kinnoch's distancing himself from the miners and the insulting remarks he has made at times about Mr Scargill."

Striking the same chord as Mr Benn, he said that the strike for Labour support to win their dispute, and that if they failed, "our chances of winning the next election are more remote than Mr Kinnoch's."

## Labour to start 'back to work' campaign

By NICHOLAS COMFORT Political Staff

THE Labour party is waiting for the end of the miners' strike to launch a major "jobs and industry" campaign depicting it as the only political force able to tackle unemployment.

The campaign is designed not only to revive Labour's electoral fortunes, but also to persuade trade unionists to vote for the continuance of union funding for the party in the impending round of ballots.

For this latter reason the campaign has been planned to start in March. But the party leadership accepts that as long as the strike is in progress, it would be near-pointless to launch it in its full form.

Labour's ultimate nightmare is that the miners' strike would collapse amid recriminations in late July or in August, setting the stage for virulent exchanges at both the TUC and Labour party conferences.

The strategy for electoral recovery through exploitation of the unemployment issue relies considerably on a peaceful party conference at which the message can be driven home as well as on the activity before then of the Labour supporters in the unions.

### No hostility

In planning the campaign, a committee under Mr John Smith, Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, has drawn some highly critical lessons from the experience of the General Election, when what had seemed a certain vote-winner turned out not to be.

A severely worded memorandum from Mr Smith on Labour's shortcomings "then was leaked" to the *New Statesman*, and to the amazement of the party leadership sparked no hostility or criticism from the Left of the kind they had been braced to expect.

A briefing on the campaign officially distributed within the party sets as its main task "to present the public with a credible economic and employment strategy that people will believe can put Britain back to work," and contrasts this with Labour's 1983 performance.

### EXPORTS RECORD

Exports to the Irish Republic have risen by more than a quarter this year to a record level, according to figures issued in Dublin yesterday. The rise of 27 per cent, exceeded the performance of all other EEC states.

## BA MOVE MADRID FLIGHTS

By Air Cdre G. S. COOPER

Air Correspondent

BRITISH Airways is to resume flights from Heathrow to Madrid and Lisbon in the Spring to get back on an equal footing with the Spanish and Portuguese flag carriers.

Iberia and Air Portugal refused to obey the Government's directions in 1978 to move all Iberian services to Gatwick to relieve congestion at London's main airport. By 1980, BA had moved all its Iberian services to Gatwick.

The government White Paper on airline competition policy published in October recognised that the transfer had caused a considerable loss of profit for the State airline and gave BA permission to move its services to Madrid, Barcelona and Lisbon back to Heathrow on conditions that an equal number of flights was transferred to Gatwick.

### Business travellers

BA has now decided to move to Heathrow the daily Lisbon service and 14 of the 20 flights a week between London and Madrid.

The flights carry a high proportion of business travellers, who prefer to use Heathrow because of its wider choice of connecting flights, said a BA spokesman.

Services to Malta and Venice will be transferred to Gatwick to balance the change.

BA's daily flights to Barcelona, Bilbao and Malaga, and two flights a week each to Faro, Oporto and Valencia will continue to be flown from Gatwick.

### AIRLINE STATES CASE

Air policy 'inconsistent'

Britain's refusal to let Singapore Airlines land at Manchester unless they drop a flight to Heathrow defeats the principle of fair competition, the airline claims in an open declaration of its case.

It also claims Britain's air policy is inconsistent — supporting liberalisation in Europe but practising protectionism elsewhere. Its services to Heathrow have been held at seven Boeing 747 flights a week since May 1976.

## All change at Liverpool St

By JOHN GREIGSBY

Local Government Correspondent

THE Court of Common Council, the governing body of the City of London, is recommending a radical reorganisation of the traffic system round Liverpool Street.

It will affect the journeys of the thousands of people who arrive at the station every day.

"The aim of the new system is to improve the environment and road traffic safety," said the City Corporation. In essence the Corporation is recommending that the present one-way system should be reversed.

The move would be undertaken in conjunction with the redevelopment of Liverpool Street Station. The Corporation argues that the present system causes congestion and is unsafe for pedestrians.

### Bus station

Under the new arrangements, the route between London Wall and Liverpool Street would be one way, south to north. The route between Old Broad Street and Liverpool Street would be one way east to west.

The proposed scheme has to be approved by the Greater London Council. The scheme is not expected to come into effect before 1986.

The new Liverpool Street development is expected to provide an extra 1.1 million square feet of offices, 29,000 sq ft of shops and 75,000 sq ft of community facilities and room for buses. A new bus station will be placed west of the Great Eastern Hotel, which is to be retained.

## Norwegian tankers 'defying S. Africa oil embargo'

By JOHN PETTY Shipping Correspondent

THREE Norwegian tankers have illicitly delivered oil worth more than £500 million to South Africa in defiance of an international embargo, it is alleged by the Amsterdam-based Shipping Research Bureau.

One of them was the *Thorshaven*, under repair in Dubai after being set on fire by Iraqi warplanes last week after loading 250,000 tons of crude at the Kharg Island terminal in Iran.

"Between November, 1981, and the end of September, 1984, the Norwegian tanker owner Thor Dahl transported at least 15 cargoes of crude oil to South Africa," says the Bureau in a report to the Norwegian Government.

"All crude oil cargoes were loaded in the Arabian Gulf area. Each oil-exporting country in that area has a policy that its oil should not be supplied to South Africa."

It involved 3,500,000 tons, but this is only a fraction of the 15 million tons a year South Africa is obtaining by secret deals with oil dealers and shipowners.

Shuttle service The bureau gives a log showing that from the middle of 1983 the Thor Dahl tankers *Thorshaven*, *Thorshaven* and *Thorsholm* appeared to run a shuttle service to South Africa from the Arabian Gulf.

Most runs were by the 275,000-tonners *Thorshaven* and *Thorsholm*. The *Thorshaven* is 251,000 tons.

The deals were "surrounded by secrecy," with the identity of the oil leaders not revealed, false destinations of cargo and tanker reported and calls at South African ports kept strictly secret."

The bureau was set up as an independent Dutch organisation in 1980 specifically to investigate ways in which South Africa gets supplies despite a widely-approved ban on deliveries of crude oil in protest at apartheid.

## DRUG HAULS NO USE TO NHS

By T. A. SANDROCK

Crime Correspondent

ALTHOUGH Customs investigators and police have this year seized record amounts of drugs — including heroin and cocaine, both of which have a legitimate medical use — the Health Service cannot benefit from the hauls.

The drugs are destroyed because the purity levels are not high enough for medical use and the refining cost is higher than that of buying pure drugs.

Apart from court cases where drug samples are required as exhibits, the procedure is for seized drugs to be destroyed by burning as soon as possible. Contraband narcotics must be held in secure conditions and escorted by Customs or police officers to establishments, to different parts of the country, which have special incinerators for destruction.

### Burning supervised

The escorting officers supervising the burning ensure there is no residue.

Courts have powers under the Misuse of Drugs Act to decide what is to be done with drugs used as exhibits. This is, nowadays, an order for their destruction.

Small samples of drugs are kept by Customs and police for training Customs investigators and drug squad detectives and also for training dogs to search for hidden supplies.

## Jobs plea by port chief

By JOHN PETTY

Shipping Correspondent

MORE than 12,000 householders are getting a letter from Mr Geoffrey Parker, chairman and managing director of the Port of Felixstowe, seeking support for more expansion to create an extra 1,100 jobs in the Suffolk docks.

He is trying to counter opposition by Mr Kent Weech, Labour MP for Ipswich, to plans for a new Parliamentary Bill to extend the port's boundaries so that more marshland can be recovered. There has also been opposition from Trimley parish council.

### Claim disproved

Mr Parker proposes planting 500,000 trees "to landscape the development and create new habitat for birds and other wildlife."

Felixstowe Docks, owned by European Ferries, is already recruiting another 90 dockers as the Dooley container terminal switches to three-shift working and the Landguard container terminal gets an extra crane.

It has just begun to turn its last available space into the new Trinity container terminal, which will open in 1986 at a cost of £40 million and employ another 320 people.

The new Bill is for still further expansion which could cost up to £100 million and create another 1,100 permanent jobs.

"Critics of the Bill say jobs created in the port do not go to local people," says European Ferries. It has produced figures to disprove this.

Between 1979 and 1984, 49 per cent of new jobs went to people in Felixstowe, Trimley and Kirtum, 40 per cent to people from nearby Ipswich and five per cent to people from Woodbridge.

"Nearly 20 per cent of new recruits were previously unemployed," said Mr Derek Kingston, head of personnel at the port.

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Telegraph PUBLICATIONS



## JUDGE ORDERS TAKE-OVER OF POLY NUS CASH

By SARAH THOMPSON Education Staff

A RECEIVER has been appointed to take control of all payments from the funds of the students' union at the North London Polytechnic in an effort to prevent illegal donations being made.

At the request of the Attorney-General, Mr Justice Harman has ordered Mr Clive Sherling, a partner of Arthur Andersen, the chartered accountants, to take over the finances.

## MURDERED WOMAN SEEN BY HOSPITAL

By T. A. SANDROCK Crime Correspondent

POLICE investigating the murder of Miss Deirdre Sainsbury, 29, whose body was found at Denham, Buckinghamshire, on Sunday, have established that after leaving Dulwich about 1 p.m., she was seen near Guy's Hospital.

She had received treatment at the hospital for a mental disorder.

Police say Miss Sainsbury was near the hospital at about 5.45 p.m. on Saturday. "We are still anxious for information from anyone who saw her, or anyone who looked like her, at any time after that," said a Thames Valley police spokesman.

### Peace camp

Miss Sainsbury, wearing a green nylon anorak, baggy denim trousers with patch pockets, and carrying a fully-packed canvas rucksack, was found near the 16th hole of Denham golf course. She was naked except for her socks, and had been battered about the head before being strangled.

Police believe she may have tried to hitch-hike to the Greenham Common peace camp which she had visited before. "They know that she was a 'wanderer' and arrived at homes of friends suddenly, looking for food and somewhere to spend the night."

Police cannot rule out that a stranger offered her food and accommodation, possibly after giving her a lift in his car. They are satisfied Miss Sainsbury was not killed at the golf course.

## Courts 'fail to award enough compensation'

By TERENCE SHAW Legal Correspondent

COURTS in some areas are failing to make proper use of their powers to order defendants to pay compensation to victims of crimes, claims Mr Michael Ogden, Q.C., the chairman of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

He is also concerned that levels of compensation laid down in guidance from the Magistrates' Association are pitched too low compared with awards for similar injuries made by the Board.

Writing in the last issue of THE MAGISTRATE, the journal of the Magistrates' Association, Mr Ogden says that compensation cases reaching the Board had indicated that some courts had failed to apply the statutory requirements to consider compensation laid down in the 1982 Criminal Justice Act.

He recalled that Mr Brittan, the Home Secretary, in giving evidence to the Commons Home Affairs Committee, had welcomed suggestions that recommendations to magistrates on compensation levels might be drawn up in consultation with the Board and distributed to courts by Home Office circular.

The intention behind the rule changes on compensation orders introduced by the 1982 Criminal Justice Act was that courts should make an order where appropriate to do so, said Mr Ogden.

### Rule changes

"A sufficient number of cases have now reached the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board to enable it to be seen that some courts have not appreciated the nature of the changes and are not applying the new provisions."

For example, if the injury which gave rise to a charge of actual bodily harm was a broken nose or a fractured jaw and a substantial fine but no compensation order was imposed in circumstances where there was no suggestion the victim was in any way to blame, it was plain that Parliament's intention had not been followed.

The Act provides that a compensation order may be made instead of dealing with an offender in any other way and that if an offender has insufficient means to pay both an appropriate fine and an appropriate compensation order, the latter should take preference.

Guidelines for compensation from the Magistrates' Association such as £150 to £400 for fractures of legs or ribs were far below the proper level of compensation that a civil court would award, says Mr Ogden.

If a defendant's means were such that he should pay less than a proper figure of compensation or nothing at all, then compensation would be less than a civil court would order no order would be made at all.

Earlier this month, the union announced a donation of £3,000 to striking miners and £5,000 to the Oxfam Ethiopian Famine Appeal.

The union's bank refused to cash one of the cheques and the other has not been presented.

Mr Sherling has been appointed after the students ignored a court injunction obtained by the Attorney-General halting the payments.

"Judge concerned" Mr Sherling said yesterday: "My duties are more like those of a trustee than a receiver in the normal sense. I have been ordered to make the union's accounts available to the Attorney-General and to the students."

"The judge was very concerned that this should be set in context. The real question is to establish whether any charity can make payments for purposes outside its own organisation."

The student officers named in the Attorney-General's application, Peter Ross, Peter Redman and Philip Brett, have been ordered to pay the costs of this week's High Court hearing from their own pockets. Costs are estimated at more than £2,000.

The Attorney-General's claim that funds reserved for student purposes may not be used by the union for donations to other charities or for any other purpose is to be tested in a High Court action in the future.

### CYCLE CRASH DEATH

A 20-year-old Jehovah's Witness, who fractured a leg on Christmas morning when his motorcycle crashed into a car in Norwich, has died in the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital after refusing a blood transfusion. An inquest on Gary Llewellyn, of City Road, Norwich, was formally opened last night.

## Body kept by daughter for 6 months

A DEVOTED daughter who kept her mother's death secret for six months was recovering in hospital yesterday.

Police believe Miss Hazel Whiting kept the body of her 90-year-old mother, Ivy, at home after refusing to accept that she was dead.

Her secret was discovered when police broke into the house at Bridge Street, Framlingham, Suffolk, shortly before Christmas after neighbours raised the alarm.

A neighbour Mr Tony Goodwin said yesterday: "Mrs Whiting was in her bed when the police found her. The house was spotless and there was a Mother's Day card by the bed. "It is very tragic. Hazel was devoted to her mother and gave up her job as a cleaner to care for her. When the old lady died, I suppose she just couldn't accept it."

Mr Goodwin added: "We became suspicious when there was only Hazel's washing on the line. Then she started to shut herself away. The curtains were always drawn and she wouldn't let anyone in. She refused all offers of help and handed out money for bills through a small window."

Miss Whiting, who is said to have no memory of her mother's death, is now in hospital in Ipswich, Suffolk. A police spokesman said an inquest would be held in the New Year.

### REWARD OFFERED

Securicor is offering a £5,000 reward for the conviction of four men who attacked a security guard and robbed him of more than £8,000 in the Main Centre, Derby, on Saturday.



Seven-month-old Catherine McTiernan who was "as well as can be expected" yesterday after a life-saving liver transplant operation.

The Daily Telegraph, Saturday, December 23, 1984

## Pilot beats fog to set up baby's liver transplant

By DAVID FLETCHER Health Services Correspondent

SEVEN-MONTH-OLD Catherine McTiernan, Britain's youngest liver transplant patient, was "as well as can be expected" at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, yesterday.

Her new liver had been rushed by air from Manchester. But fog nearly cost the transplant team a chance to operate. The air ambulance could not land at Cambridge Airport because of it and the weather also forced other airfields in the area to close.

Permission was finally given for the plane to land at RAF Watlington, near Ipswich, 50 miles away. As soon as the pilot knew he would be able to land, surgeons at the hospital began the first steps in the five-hour operation.

Suffolk and Cambridgeshire police then laid on escort cars to rush the liver by road. Catherine, described as "desperately ill" before her operation, had a rare liver condition diagnosed when she was 10 weeks old.

After emergency surgery at Kings College Hospital, London, she appeared to be making a good recovery at her home in Norwich Road, Ipswich, but was taken to hospital again six weeks ago with pneumonia and a dangerously high temperature.

### Appeal launched

Her parents, Brendan and Suzanne McTiernan, were told her only hope was treatment in America, and a £200,000 appeal was launched to fly her across the Atlantic.

Doctors warned, however, that she might not live long enough to make the journey and Prof Roy Calne and his team, who carried out the life-saving liver transplant operation on two-year-old Ben Hardwick, agreed to operate on Catherine.

A hospital spokesman said: "Her condition has remained stable since midnight. She is as well as can be expected given the length and difficulty of the operation and the fact that she is so young and tiny."

Mr McTiernan said he and his wife knew the operation was Catherine's one hope. "We owe her this chance of life. We were told she probably wouldn't have lived to reach America. She was likely to die at any time."

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# CIVILIAN TRIAL FOR ARGENTINA JUNTA CHIEFS

By CRISTINA BONASEGNA in Buenos Aires

MEMBERS of Argentina's former military juntas will be tried by a civilian court for their responsibility for widespread human rights violations.

This development follows a Supreme Court ruling on Thursday night which put an end to a jurisdiction struggle between military and civilian courts over the issue.

President Raul Alfonsín brought the charges against members of three of the juntas that ruled Argentina between 1976 and 1983 shortly after he took office a year ago.

Two former military presidents and three other junta members are being held under preventive arrest in the investigation into the 10,000 people who have disappeared.

"The trial of the juntas will be fast and spectacular," said Emilio Mignoni, a human rights campaigner yesterday. "It will be open to the public and sentences could be passed as early as March."

**Justice reform**

Under a reform of the military Code of Justice introduced by Alfonsín, the charges against nine former junta members were transferred to the Federal Chamber of Appeal on Oct. 2, after the highest military tribunal in the country apparently refused to pass sentence.

However, the Supreme Court ruling, which backs up the Military Code reform, is not expected to set a precedent in investigations into human rights abuses against other

officers, including Navy Lt-Cdre Astiz, who is being tried by a civilian court on charges of kidnapping and abducting a Swedish-Australian girl, Darma Hagelin, in 1977 and of taking her to an illegal detention centre at the Navy Mechanics School in Buenos Aires where she was last seen alive some days afterwards.

**Law chief's view**

But the federal solicitor general said that he felt Astiz's case should be transferred to a military court.

Under the reformed military Code of Justice, the Armed Forces Supreme Council is the proper court for crimes committed by military personnel on duty.

Although the judge handing the Astiz case is expected to express his intention to continue the investigations next week, the Federal Chamber of Appeal and the Supreme Court are likely to order the case to be transferred to the military court, human rights campaigners said.

"If this happens the Astiz case won't return to the civilian court until 1986 and a definite sentence will have to wait until then," one campaigner added.

## Falklands separation plan 'only an idea'

By DAVID ADAMSON Diplomatic Correspondent

A CONSTITUTIONAL proposal for the separation of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands from the Falklands was still only an "idea" which had yet to be decided on, a Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday.

## THATCHER 'ARROGANT' ON ISLANDS

By Our Buenos Aires Correspondent

ARGENTINA'S Foreign Minister, Señor Dante Caputo, described as "arrogant" Mrs Thatcher's assurance that the Falkland Islanders wish to remain British would always come before Argentine claims over the South Atlantic archipelago.

Senor Caputo reacted angrily to Mrs Thatcher's Christmas broadcast to the islands, saying that her statements "are almost typical of an ever-shrinking empire that never ceases decaying."

Speaking on Thursday night the Foreign Minister said he was confident that "sooner or later" Argentina would recover the islands over which both countries battled for seven weeks in 1982.

"I believe that Mrs Thatcher can talk about what she will do during her government, but not intend to set the course of history by saying 'always,' seems to me an act of arrogance," he declared.

**Hard task**

Senor Caputo re-affirmed that his country would continue waging a diplomatic battle to have its claim over the Falklands recognised. This he described as a "difficult and hard" task.

Negotiations between Argentina and Britain over the future of the islands are deadlocked over the issue of sovereignty.

"Argentina had a just title (to the islands), a legitimate government pressing for this title, and history itself backing it up," the Foreign Minister added.

## RUSSIA TESTS MODEL SPACE SHUTTLE

By NIGEL WADE in Moscow

Russia is testing a model space shuttle but is unsure whether it could be economical, Academician Roald Sagdeev, head of the Soviet Space Research Institute, told a Moscow news conference yesterday.

He confirmed that a test on Dec. 19, in which "artificial earth satellite Cosmos-1614" orbited the Earth and splashed down in the Black Sea was a shuttle test.

The Australian Navy has twice photographed a Soviet mini-shuttle test craft, wedge-shaped like the American shuttle but only about 10ft long, being retrieved from the Indian Ocean.

## KING FREES 195

By Our Kathmandu Correspondent

King Birendra of Nepal yesterday granted amnesty to 195 prisoners to mark his 40th birthday. A two-mile procession went to the palace to offer greetings to the King.



## POLAND'S 'UNIQUE' TRIAL

By Our Diplomatic Staff

THE open trial of under-cover policemen accused of murdering Father Popieluszko is unique in post-war Soviet-bloc history and a measure of the degree to which the Polish State has become accountable to the nation.

It would be unthinkable for a similar trial to take place anywhere else in the East bloc, except as a showpiece for propaganda reasons.

Poland has emerged from more than a year of military rule and the often violent suppression of political opposition during which most forms of civil liberty were suspended, as a Communist country still out of step with its allies.

The 18-month Solidarity era has left behind a climate in which the State is obliged to acknowledge the necessity of bringing its most trusted servants to account for a crime which to Moscow, Sofia or Bucharest would never even have been publicly announced, let alone publicly punished.

It is the very nature of General Jaruzelski's relatively "liberal" dictatorship that moved the hardline Marxist policemen to investigate their crime and led to their being tried in public.

**Moscow baffled**

Behind the crime lie suggestions of Stalinist-inspired political schemes to destabilise the country enough for Moscow to step in and replace Gen. Jaruzelski with a firmer hand.

The extraordinary complexity of the trial occasionally places Solidarity activists and the Government on the same side in calling for calm after Father Popieluszko's murder and in demanding strict justice for the killers.

The Kremlin cannot quite understand what is going on in Poland but, so long as the general appears to be the person able to run the nation, is willing to put up with almost anything except open public opposition.

Poland has never been—and probably never will be—a nation capable of being a success on the same terms as its Communist neighbours.

As Mr Rifkind, Foreign Office Secretary of State, said during his visit in Poland last month, even under martial law it has one of the better human rights records in Eastern Europe.

## TURKEY AND RUSSIA FAIL TO AGREE

By Our Ankara Correspondent

Because of political disagreements Turkey and Russia did not issue a joint communiqué at the end of two-day official visits by Mr Tikhonov, the Soviet Prime Minister, to Ankara. This was announced by most Turkish papers yesterday, following Mr Tikhonov's departure.

The Istanbul daily Hürriyet said Cyprus, international terrorism and Turkish-Greek problems were the main issues that Turkey failed to find "acceptable terms" with the Soviet Union. Russia wanted to emphasise nuclear weapons and "crisis in the world."

According to Foreign Ministry sources the main source of disagreement was their understanding of terrorism. Turkey's refusal to support Soviet-sponsored terrorism in the United Nations prevented Mr Tikhonov from making any public statement, said one Turkish diplomat.

## FEARS FOR LIFE OF SCHARANSKY

By Our Jerusalem Correspondent

Concern that the health of Anatoly Scharansky, the Jewish Soviet activist, may have seriously deteriorated was expressed yesterday by his wife, Avital, who said he had been transferred to hospital from a labour camp in the Urals.

Mrs Scharansky, who is in Israel, said she had learned of her husband's illness from her mother-in-law who had telephoned from Moscow. She feared for her husband's life because of reports that Jewish activists were molested because of their political convictions.

## Year of EEC progress after Budget deal

By ALAN OSBORN Common Market Correspondent

A MOOD of striking optimism enfolds the Common Market as it enters 1985, not least because it will be the first year since 1978 not dominated by the British EEC budget problem.

Britain has promised a new tough, but constructive, approach to Community problems.

This was signalled by the appointment of Lord Cockfield, and Mr Stanley Clinton Davis, as the two new British Commissioners in Brussels, which has raised hopes that the New Year will mark the start of a fresh period of realism and progress for the EEC.

By most measures, the outgoing EEC Commission, under the presidency of M. Gastou Thorn of Luxembourg, has been a disappointment. Its four-year term of office witnessed a gradual slide to the political authority bequeathed to it by the Row Jenkins's Commission in 1981.

Although several individual commissioners distinguished themselves, the impression remains that it was the EEC members' governments, themselves who produced and acted on the initiative that finally yielded a reasonable balance sheet for the past four years.

In particular, the French and Irish governments, who held the EEC presidency in 1984, might justifiably claim the major credit for the real breakthroughs, particularly on the budget but also in respect of enlargement negotiations with Spain and Portugal, relations with the developing countries and the new drive to open up the internal market between member countries.

In no way can the Italian Government, which takes over the presidency for the first half of 1985, be said to inherit a clean sheet.

**Imaginative leadership**

But there is a strong feeling that the problems still hanging over the budget and the enlargement negotiations are largely technical and could swiftly yield to an application of imaginative leadership from the new Commission in Brussels under M. Jacques Delors, the former French finance minister.

The outstanding achievement of 1984—as, indeed, of the past four years, was the three-part agreement reached at Fontainebleau in June on the EEC's finances.

Under the new regime, Britain will no longer have to beg or threaten, year after year, for a budget rebate. It will be automatically provided, if not quite on the scale the Government would have liked.

Fontainebleau also gave the co-ordinating increase in the EEC's annual revenues from member governments to us averting the possibility that Community policies might suffer for lack of money from next year.

Finally, and possibly most important of all, the agreement introduces a measure of discipline.

## Bonn confidence high

By MICHAEL FARR in Bonn

THE West German economy, Europe's strongest, is set for steady growth in the New Year, bolstered by booming exports and mounting business confidence.

After more than two years in office and more than his share of political banana skins, Chancellor Kohl is determined to make capital of the successes on the economic front and has repeatedly referred to them in recent interviews.

The chancellor notes that West Germans are entering the New Year with more confidence than for years. This is borne out by the latest opinion poll by the respected Allensbach Institute which shows that 55 per cent are "hopeful," a jump from 45 per cent a year ago.

**Record trade surplus**

Dr Kohl hases the optimism on the fact that the economy is growing again, that prices have returned to the stability of the

## CAMBODIA REBELS POUNDED

By HUGH DAVIES in Peking

IN a stiffly worded communiqué last night, China denounced Vietnam for "acting like criminals" in assault on the stronghold of a main guerrilla force at Ampil, Cambodia, a few hundred yards from the border with Thailand.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Peking called on Hanoi to "stop slaughtering innocent people" in Cambodia.

Reports from the battle-zone indicated that the Vietnamese were preparing a major ground attack on the command headquarters of a Peking ally, the Khmer Peoples' National Liberation Force.

Artillery pounded the area with shells and mortars yesterday as an estimated 25,000 civilians huddled at the rear of the camp ready for a swift escape across an anti-tank ditch forming the frontier with Thailand.

More than 100,000 refugees have sought haven in Thailand since the latest offensive against border camps began. Western diplomats said that the fall of Ampil would deal a great psychological blow to the guerrilla forces who have fought the Vietnamese for six years.

**Last camp**

Ampil is the last major frontier resistance camp to stay intact since the dry season offensive began last month. Three days ago, Soviet T-54 tanks were used to crush rebels at Song Samel, 16 miles away.

The Vietnamese military operation, which began on Nov. 18, appears to be the most



ferocious yet to be directed against the guerrillas since Hanoi ousted the infamous Pol Pot regime in December 1978, replacing it with the Heng Samrin government.

Since then, Hanoi has maintained an estimated 150,000 to 170,000 troops in the former Cambodian homeland of Peking's great ally, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who now heads one of the main resistance groups.

The latest attacks are being portrayed by Hanoi as "a punishment" which was vital to assure the "security" of the Cambodians.

## SINGAPORE IS LATEST TO QUIT UNESCO

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Singapore has unexpectedly become the first Third World country to announce its withdrawal from UNESCO, the Paris-based U.N. educational, scientific and cultural organisation which has been accused by Western nations of inefficiency and pro-Soviet bias.

A spokesman for Singapore's foreign ministry said the decision, which will take effect in a year's time, was based on financial considerations. The country's contribution to UNESCO had increased by 400 per cent since 1976 while contributions from Communist states had either remained static or been reduced.

The United States withdraws on Monday, taking with it its 25 per cent contribution to the organisation's annual budget. Britain and West Germany recently gave a year's notice of their withdrawals.

## 15 DEATH SENTENCES

The Jordanian Government has approved death sentences on 15 people convicted of selling their property on the Israeli-occupied West Bank to Israelis, the official Jordanian news agency Petra reported yesterday.

# Gandhi's landslide victory precedes formidable task

By DAVID GRAVES in New Delhi

AS Rajiv Gandhi stood poised to win a landslide Indian election victory last night, the next major test facing him is seen as the most formidable crisis confronting the country since independence in 1947.

Increasing domestic and international problems provided an unsettled backdrop to the election.

The 40-year-old Prime Minister undoubtedly benefited from an overwhelming sympathy factor after the assassination of his mother but his Congress (I) party also gained from the lack of a credible alternative posed by a bitterly divided opposition.

Now he will be expected to be far tougher with future separatist demands and unrest in the Punjab and Assam, where no polling took place, and also in the north-eastern border regions where armed insurgents are active.

**Dangerous course**

The growing feeling in many states that they should have a bigger share of power, a legacy of Mr Gandhi's inflexible administration, would seem to have diminished since her death and her son's emergence.

He will now lead India along a testing, if not dangerous, course over the next five years.

Behind him will be the so-called "computer boys," a team of former school friends, associates and confidantes—many of whom have left top executive roles to private industry to advise the young Prime Minister on political and economic trends.

An improving balance of payments, a manageable foreign debt and 70 per cent self-sufficiency in all products are the most recent electoral promises in his favour.

**Border tensions**

Despite the technological "new world" Mr Gandhi has promised he will still have the most serious domestic and international issues to tackle.

There are still glaring contradictions between the secular ideals which Mahatma Gandhi had enshrined in the constitution and the realities of communal, caste and regional divisions. Nearly half of the 750 million population are living under the poverty line and 60 per cent are still illiterate.

In international affairs there are many who regard as an enormous contradiction India's role as chairman of the non-aligned movement and the continuing border tensions

which dominate her relations with neighbouring countries. Having fought three wars with Pakistan since partition the major dispute is still over Kashmir while allegations from New Delhi that her Muslim neighbour helped train Sikh extremists who were then infiltrated into the Punjab have further frayed relations.

Burder differences with China continue to strain relations with Peking: the border with Bangladesh is being cordoned off with an enormous barbed wire fence; Sri Lanka feels that New Delhi is attempting to destabilise her by encouraging Tamil rebels and there are still difficulties with Nepal over Indian immigrants.

The generally lacklustre election campaign was dominated by one single factor more than any other: national unity.

## 'Mr Clean'

Grasping the sense of fear that India was under grave threat from both within and outside, Mr Gandhi criss-crossed the vast country telling election rallies that the re-election of Congress (I) was the only hope of avoiding disintegration.

In an attempt to stamp his own image on his party Mr Gandhi dropped nearly a quarter of Congress's 359 sitting M.P.s in favour of the result in an attempt to "cleanse" the party, which was generally regarded as an Indian euphemism for wiping out corruption.

Since then the young Prime Minister has been projected as "Mr Clean" by party leaders.

He faces the future with the benefit of knowing that the Indian economy is one of the success stories of the Third World. Growth has stabilised at five per cent, and vastly improved harvests could make the nation a food exporter next year.

## MALTESE BOMB BLAST AVERTED

By Our Valletta Correspondent

An attempt to blow up an oppositionist Maltese party when some 70 people were meeting was thwarted by a guest who noticed the bomb in a dustbin and took it to a beach nearby where it exploded.

A week ago a bomb blew up a car outside another opposition club injuring several people. Nineteen bombs have exploded in the island in the past three months.

## Russian visit revives Chinese trade links

By HUGH DAVIES in Peking

MR IVAN ARKHIPOV, Soviet First Deputy Premier, leaves Peking for Moscow today after enhancing trade ties but apparently doing little to mend ideological fences.

While he is the most senior Russian to visit China since 1969, his place in the Kremlin, Peking order is not very influential. He is chiefly considered as an old China hand, having served in Peking in the 1950s.

A normalisation of party relations, frigid for two decades, will seem far off, particularly as the Chinese have declined to join a Moscow-sponsored world conference of Communist parties.

In fact, the Chinese have used the Arkhipov trip to open Soviet eyes to the economic wonders now under way in China.

**Talks on U.S. visit**

Mr Arkhipov, 77, helped formulate and implement China's first five-year plan while he was based in Peking.

His hosts yesterday showed him a steel plant at Wubao in central China, stressing that output was now ten times higher than when he was last in the country.

Before his departure after an eight-day stay, he had a final round of talks in Peking with Chinese officials, including Peng Zhen, head of the standing committee of the National People's Congress.

One topic thought to have been discussed was the visit next month of Gen. John Vessey, head of the American joint chiefs of staff, who is to discuss arrangements for American warships to make ceremonial calls to Chinese ports for the first time since the Communists took power in 1949.

According to the New China news agency, Peng said the "abnormal state" of Sino-Soviet relations "should not continue" and the Chinese side "sincerely hoped" this would be normalised.

Nothing progress was being made in the areas of the economy, trade, science and technology, he added that the visit should be "a starting point to do as many things as possible."

Mr Arkhipov said Moscow hoped to build steadily relations with China. He noted that "positive factors" had been found in relations in recent years.

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**A WINE-LOVER'S** favourite dream must be to sip the best claret in the gracious setting of a French chateau. Not only can anyone do just this — at a price — they can also learn a great deal about the wines of Bordeaux in the process. To set the wheels in motion, all they have to do is ask at their local branch of Peter Dominic.

The high-flown realms of the Bordeaux premiers crus may appear to have little link with a High Street chainstore, but Dominic is part of the IDV group, which also owns Gilbey's, and at the old Gilbey family property of Château Loudeonne, the prestigious Ecole du Vin course is held five times a year.

This six-day course has a delightful charm all its own — the small numbers make it intimate and our group of 11 quickly developed a camaraderie, founded on a genuine love of wine, which went on into meetings and letters after the course.

We were also able to meet the chateau owners and cellar masters, brought forward to tell us their wonderful secrets on a truly personal basis, often at delicious meals, where wine rarely and expensively seen here flowed like the proverbial water.

And then there was the lovely, tranquil atmosphere of Château Loudeonne itself which, as well as being a noted producer of a good cru bourgeois claret and a white wine, is also Gilbey's Bordeaux conference centre.

That hard term hardly does it justice, for staying there is like participating



LEFT: Course students looking at vineyard work in front of Château Loudeonne.

RIGHT: A serious session in the tasting room of the chateau's cellars.



Pictures by AVRIL GROOM

## Taking a tasteful journey around the chateaux

BY AVRIL GROOM

in a country house party which is at once both grand and homely. The low, pink-washed chateau with its square towers and twin turrets is one of the most northerly of the great Médoc houses and lies on one of the famous gravelly hillocks that give the best wine, with a sweep of terrace, lawn, flowerbeds and vineyard leading down to the wide estuary of the Gironde, from which the wine used to be exported direct.

Initially rather run down, the house was exquisitely restored in period style but with all modern amenities by Gilbey's director, Martin Bamford, who sadly died just after the Ecole du Vin courses were launched two years ago.

The chateau is now run by a French couple, who prepare and serve the sumptuous meals, and the very efficient English chateleine, who acts as hostess and is cheerfully tolerant towards her guests' foibles — in our group's case, a passion for late-night croquet, played by moonlight.

The course itself is five hard but very enjoyable days' work, plus the first afternoon, when the leisurely drive from the airport via all the famous wine communes and with stops to view some of the grander chateaux, became like reading a guided, animated wine list. The

course is run by Peter Dominic's very friendly and quite unimposing Master of Wine, Charles Eve, who rounded up an impressive bunch of lecturers.

Some talks were given in the chateau's own lecture-room, with tastings in the special room attached to Loudeonne's cellar (winery) and chateau (cellar) that provided our first model of a working Bordeaux chateau. Here we learnt the process of wine-making, including aspects of the technical side, the elements to look for in tasting a wine, care of the vines in the vineyard and the fascinating

history of the Bordeaux wine trade, founded mainly by English and Irishmen.

We also visited other chateaux, making the dry text-book descriptions of the region's differing wines come alive — the austere, long-lived St Estèphe wine of comfortable Château de Pèze, the aristocratic aloofness of premier cru Château Lafite, the softer glories of grand Château Giscours in Margaux and a whole day among the little hills and plateaux, generous wines and small chateaux of Pomerol and St Emilion.

What you do not do on

an Ecole du Vin course is spend the time tasting just wines from great chateaux and great years — but that hardly relates to real life anyway. What you do, far more usefully, is make comparisons — one area of Bordeaux against another (all are included during the week), one chateau through ten or more years. Médoc wines from the classed lists of one year against another.

And, in the evenings, as a climax to the day, came the rare and the great with dinner. Even the final-day demonstration of local cooking, given by a young Bordeaux chef who

is a rising star in French cuisine, was carefully matched to the chosen wines.

By the end of the week, anyone hearing chance remarks at a tasting would have thought us the most pretentious crowd imaginable — "Does this have a red berries oose or is it more farmyardy?" "Does the proportion of new-wood used each year really show?" — but the terminology of wine becomes not just plausible but commonplace when used intensively each day and we were all anxious to try in practice the theory we had acquired.

At the final, black-tie dinner, the guessing games were played with gems like Latour '64.

One or two stars got it exactly right; the rest of us felt just guessing the commuac or the year correctly showed it had been a week well spent. Leaving next day was coming down to earth with a bump. We would all have liked to linger: some would have been more than happy to start all over again.

The Ecole du Vin course will cost £650 in 1985, not including travel to Bordeaux, but including all meals and transport once there. The first will be in April, the last in November and early bookings are advisable as there are only 60 places per year.

The prospectus is available from Philip Parker, Ecole du Vin, Gilbey House, Harlow, Essex.

## THE CREAM OF JERSEY'S TOP TABLES

THE winter weather in Jersey was sunny and mild when, weary of set hotel menus, we cast about for some bright, quality, V.A.T-free restaurants.

Apple Cottage Restaurant, tucked into Rozel Bay's steep little valley, lies behind a low, flower-draped wall, down a flagged path to a shining door which is rose-festooned in summer. Step through into the roomy chintz and old oak restaurant, which Pat and Setti Pozzi took over three years ago.

The couple are famed for their super cream teas in summer and for their superb seafoods, whether the piled-high, pedastalled Sea Food Platter, with everything from oysters to giant prawns (£9.50) or their fresh-from-the-hay lobsters served cold, hot, or garlicky, as you choose, £9 to £9.50.

Having polished off large bowls of home-made vegetable and lobster soups, well laced with Jersey cream, we were tied into bills for our lobster and jumbo prawns dishes. Then came melting, home-made apple pie with lashings more cream and excellent coffee. We ordered two long drinks too, and

yet had 10p change returned to us from a £20 note together with the slip stating "no tips required."

If fish is not your "thing," you can revel in tender veal poached in cream or fillet steaks cost-

rolls back, disclosing pork, lamb, beef and a powdered Yorkshire puddings.

It is wise to book, whether for Sunday lunch or for the Parisian Nights, when the price rises to

for two) and the Carré d'Agneau au Pistou (£10-60, also for two), all very generous portions.

Your wine selection at the Shakespeare restaurant runs from a French-bottled range of red, white and rosé Selection

ming bowls of the best Moules Marinières on the island, the tenderest Veal au Citron or à la crème, and a luscious selection of puddings.

The atmosphere is very family-friendly; nothing is too much trouble, you can leave messages or even parcels and the average cost of a three-course meal is £10 to £12 per head.

Last, but certainly far from least, is the smoothly admirable Ristorante Il Capriccio, on two levels with, on the upper level, a full view of kitchen activities: always a hall mark of confidence. Signor Piero and his Signora are wildly enthusiastic, and their Italianate fare is excellent.

We chose Tagliatelli Il Capriccio, sauced with prawns, mussels and squid. This is definitely outstanding. We followed it with one enormous pair of veal escalopes with lemon and another pair poached in cream. Both were teamed with an assortment of freshly and properly cooked vegetables. Finally we indulged in a luscious chocolate gâteau drenched in Jersey cream. With proper filter coffee and including a 10 per cent service charge, our bill was just over £20 for two.

### EATING OUT

### BY BON VIVEUR

ing £4-25. A carafe of red white or rosé wine costs from £2-40.

Another "must" is The Shakespeare Old English Restaurant where the new bar is thronged on Sunday mornings prior to the best value and freshest Sunday lunches on the island for £5-50, at which Jack Stevens carves at each table from a great domed trolley which is wheeled about for him. The top

£8-75. This buys first-rate accordion music, a six-course dinner menu plus coffee and an evening's dancing. On all occasions there is also the à la carte, featuring such notable successes as Crêpes Suzette (for two at £3-90), Crevettes St Pierre, a delectable dish of jumbo prawns wrapped in quality bacon and turned in a cream and light curry sauce (£6-60

du Patron at £3-05 per bottle to a ceiling £18-90 for a Gevrey Chambertin Louis Latour '79.

The Restaurant de la Poste, hang in the centre of the shopping precinct of St Helier, is a luncheon meeting place with partner Franco in charge, or a dinner celebration when Renato takes over.

Upstairs, this Italian trattoria serves a great Ossobuco, super brim-

### THE RESTAURANTS

APPLE COTTAGE RESTAURANT, Rozel Bay, Tel: 0534 61002. Hours of opening: Winter: lunch, 12 noon to 2.15, last orders: dinner, 7 pm to 9.30, last orders. In summer, teas from 12 noon to 5.30 pm. Morning coffee from 10.30. Closed Sunday evening and all day Monday.

RESTAURANT DE LA POSTE, 59 King Street, St Helier, Tel: 0534 71071. Hours of opening: lunch, 11 am to 2.30 pm, last orders: dinner, 7 pm to 10 pm, last orders.

THE SHAKESPEARE OLD ENGLISH RESTAURANT, Saumarez, St Clements, Tel: 0534 51537. Hours of opening: seven days a week, lunch 12 noon to 3 pm, last orders: bar lunch, 12 noon to 2 pm, last orders: dinners, 7 pm to 10.30, last orders.

RISTORANTE IL CAPRICCIO, La Colombiere Court, St Helier, Tel: 0534 34892. Hours of opening: lunch, 12 noon to 2.30 pm, last orders: dinner, 6 pm to 10.30 pm, last orders: closed Sundays.



### BARGAIN BONANZA

NEXT week sees the start of the Knightsbridge sales, with the opportunity to indulge in something extravagant and glamorous to wear at a fraction of the original price.

How about the mad luxury of a shocking pink silk jumpsuit, or even a sequined evening dress by the Emanuel?

Alternatively, Jean Muir's M range in Wool is reduced to half-price in Harrod's sale. Harvey Nichols kicks off first on Thursday, Harrod starts Friday, Charles Joun-

on Wednesday, and Loewe, the leather specialists, on Monday, January 7 with some bargains in top-quality leather clothes.

Round the corner in Beauchamp Place, Bruce Oldfield's shop holds its first sale of glamour outfits like the stunning dress we feature.

Also in Beauchamp Place, a new shop, Sava, which offers a very personal service, good alterations and professional dry cleaning, has big discounts on all merchandise during the Knightsbridge sales period.

Ann Chubb

In our sketch (by Lisa Hadjidakis) from left to right: stunning silk satin dress in silver grey with a Tuxedo air is reduced from £240 to £200 in a selection of bargains at Bruce Oldfield's sale starting January 4 at 27 Beauchamp Place, London SW3; beautifully-cut jumpsuit in shocking pink silk satin is down from £225 to £185 in sizes 8-18, also red, black or white at Sava, 5 Beauchamp Place. Unmistakable Jean Muir dress from her J M in Wool collection is down from £299 to £149 in fuchsia or petrol, sizes 8-14; only for the shiny; dress with skin-tight sequined bodice above floating silk skirt is down from £352 to £178, also purple, sizes 10 to 14, by Emanuel; fashionable lacy insets for a black crepe Monica Chang dress reduced from £215 to £107, sizes 10-14, all in Harrod's sale starting January 4.

## On the road to recovery, after a prolonged bout of good resolutions

BY LORRAINE COLLINS

I USED to be hooked on New Year's resolutions, deciding that this was the year I'd lose 10 lb, once up a savings account, plant a herb garden, get a good photograph of the entire family, learn the rules of cricket and write Christmas cards before December 23.

Le me, I would have the whole year nearly planned, awaiting nothing but my personal industry and inventiveness to turn it into a year of glorious triumph. It wasn't easy to give all that up.

Years of habitual use had made me dependent on New Year's resolutions, even when I knew from experience that in a matter of months, weeks, days, or even hours, I would begin to feel the depression that inevitably followed when the initial effect of the resolutions had worn off.

Last year I finally decided to quit, to be a carefully controlled programme of tapering-off, with the support of understanding friends and relatives, and now that I am on the road to recovery, like every other reformed person, I want to share my message with the world.

I realise we live in a society which makes it very difficult for those of us who want to quit resolutions. I blame it on advertising which, especially at this time of year, makes resolutions sound attractive and even patriotic.

At parties and during tea breaks, people compare resolutions and urge the abstainer to try theirs. If we say: "No thanks, not this year," we are told that just one won't hurt, or it's perfectly safe, and not to believe everything we've heard about the damaging side effects. Believe me, when everyone else at a party is bragging about New Year's resolutions, it is very difficult to turn away from temptation.

Yet the fact is that some people can handle New Year's resolutions, and some of us can't. Those who can be both calm and well-organised 20 minutes before their first party guests arrive, and those who can carry through on career plans developed at the age of 12 can handle resolutions, at least in moderation. The rest of us are better off facing our situation for what it is.

Several times over the holiday season, I was saved from resolutions only by concentrating fiercely on February, repeating the word over and over to myself, trying to induce a trance. The effort has been worth it. My programme is working.

Last year I began by allowing myself only two resolutions for the year.

One was to see the bottom of the laundry basket at least once, and the other was to develop a warm relationship with my houseplants, so that they would flourish.

In August, when I still had not seen the bottom of the laundry basket, I gave the entire thing to a jumble sale in desperation, including two school uniforms and the only pair of matching socks my

husband had to his name. The houseplants, of course, had fared their faces to the wall and quietly died in March.

The memory of just those two disastrous resolutions has sustained me throughout this season, but nevertheless it took quite a lot of will power and determination to choose just one resolution to see me through 1985.

I wondered whether I should resolve to plan menus for an entire month, never once including fish fingers, or whether I should resolve to find all the lids for my Tupperware. In the end, I felt that the last resolution should be historic, challenging, poetic and meaningful. It should also be one that would convince me without doubt that I should never try resolutions again.

At last, when the time arrived for me to write down my ultimate and historic resolution, I wrote: "For the entire year of 1985, I will refrain from telling my husband how many times I have asked him to fix the lock on the bathroom door."

If this resolution lasts beyond the second week of January, I have a more serious case than I thought.

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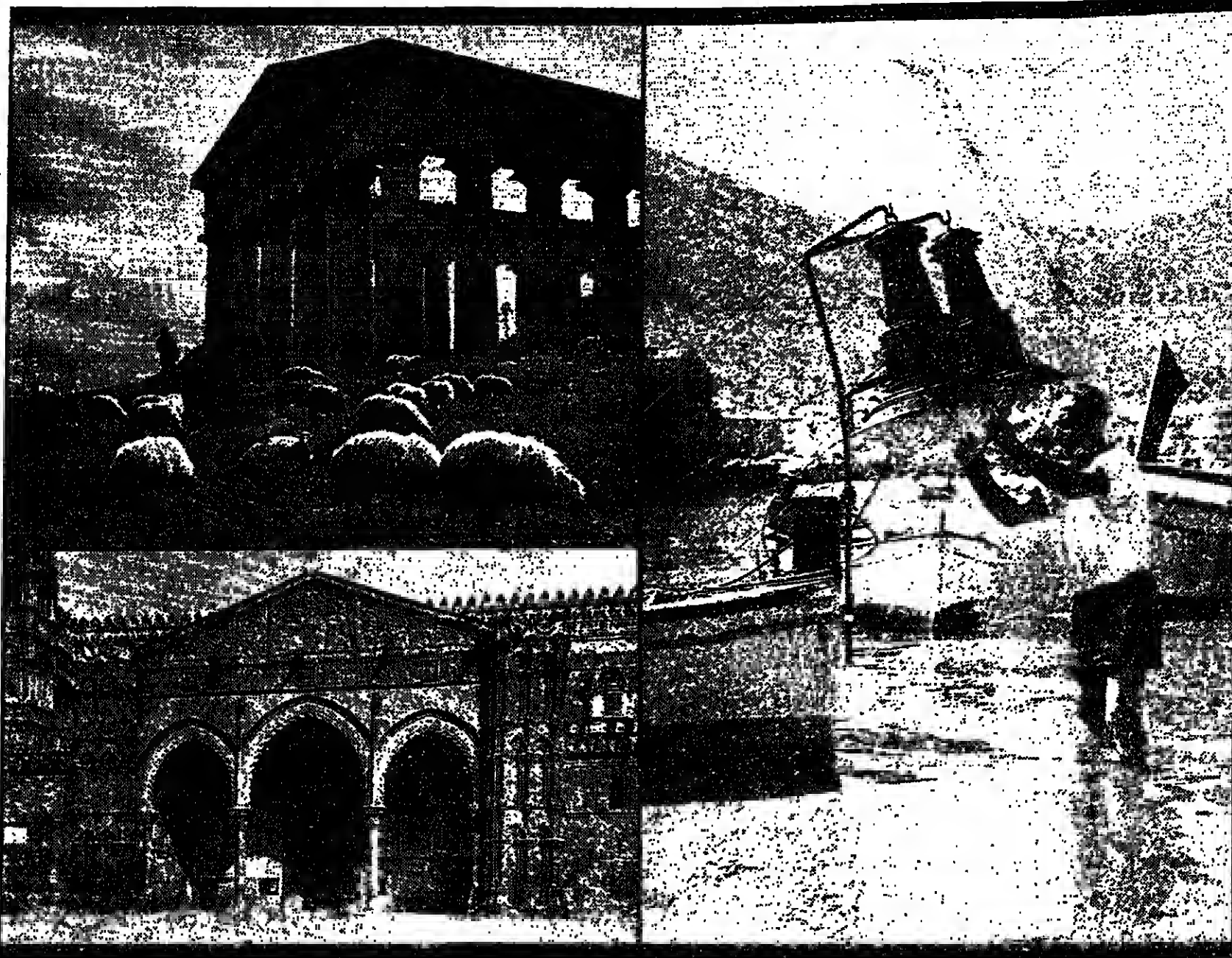
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## On the move



THE tourist trade in Sicily is not exactly flourishing, with reports of theft, violence and the sombre shadow of the Mafia all seeming to conspire against it.

Surely nothing else can be causing the problems because Sicily, as well as being the largest Mediterranean island, is also one of the most fascinating and its people, at least in country areas, friendly and welcoming.

Certainly care is needed in the cities. One member of our party had her handbag stolen in Palermo and we met a couple whose car had been burgled there.

But the Mafia are more of an attraction than a threat to the tourist. At least one retired "godfather" regularly includes tourist lunches on excursions to the Mafia-dominated western hill-towns.

## Self-drive is the way to see Sicily

BY AVRIL GROOM

Beyond these reservations, Sicily has many delights especially in its less-frequented areas. The way to see it is really by self-drive car (though there is a good range of excursions from the main tourist centres). There are good maps covering the country roads that often lead to the most interesting destinations.

As a base, I would recommend Taormina, despite its off-centre location towards the north-east corner of the island. Its fame as a resort has lasted most of this century, based largely on its spectacular site, and it is within easy driving reach of many of the most interesting spots.

Taormina lies halfway up a precipitous shoreline mountain, with the huge cone of Etna, only about 15 miles away and best seen in the classic view from the town's Greco-Roman amphitheatre.

The town itself is charming, if tourist-orientated, and there is a wealth of good hotels, though those who enjoy the sea might be happier in Mazzara at the bottom of the cliff from where you can whizz up to the town by frequent cable-car for the princely sum of 60p return.

For a real luxury seaside holiday, nowhere could be more restful than the lovely old Villa Sant'Andrea, with its pastel-and-white-cane décor and

beautiful antique furniture. It has a private beach and terraced gardens where you can eat.

Less exalted but extremely comfortable is the Ipanema, with its rooftop swimming pool. Both hotels do good versions of the local, seafood-oriented cuisine as well as more international cooking.

The obvious trip from Taormina is to Etna and, although there are frequent excursions, going by car is preferable because then you can pick your time and see the awesome mountain in suitable solitude.

The drive up is fascinating because the altitude and effects of the frequent lava-flows change the vegetation from sea-level lushness to barren tundra at about 6,000ft, where the road unceremoniously stops in a cluster of cratered slagheaps and souvenir shops.

From here, the way up used to be by cable-car but in summer '84 this was still unrepaired from the previous year's eruption. So we humped up by specially-reinforced minibus, past eerie, fragile lava towers and snowbanks covered with newly-fallen ash.

We were lucky enough to visit during a period of "non-aggressive activity." The 11,000ft high main crater does little but steam these days and the action

is confined to side craters. The guides will take you as near as is safe, and as this means trudging across spiky lava, snow and mud, strong footwear is essential. But standing feet away from a glistening, red, moving river of rock, quite silent apart from the tinkle of settling clinker, while one burns on one side and freezes on the other, must be one of the world's most eerie experiences.

A more relaxing day trip would be to Cefalù on the north coast, a delightful little fishing town under a great rocky headland. Less touristy than many resorts, it has an almost medieval atmosphere in its square shadowed by the huge Romanesque cathedral, and the narrow street leading down to the harbour has some good fish restaurants.

The pretty limestone hills of the Madonie, which form the hinterland to Cefalù, make an interesting detour.

We found our way to the local vineyards of Fontanarossa, a lovely Cerdà, whose wine is as good and robust as the freshly-made mazzarella cheese and mountain salami served with it, in an idyllic setting.

A longer trip to the south-west is through beautiful scenery to Piazza Armerina, site of some of the world's most spectacular

mosaics. Small wonder that a Roman emperor built a villa in such a peaceful, verdant valley and the mosaics deserve hours of inspection. There are acres of them showing hunting scenes, the Roman empire abroad, myths and gods, and even girl gymnasts in handcuffs "looking much like an aerobics class."

Piazza can be seen on the return from a longer trip: the best of Sicily's classical remains are at the western end of the island and merit an overnight stay. The hilltop Greek theatre and temple of Segesta; Selinunte, overlooking the sea with its reconstructed temples and yet more temples on the plateau below modern

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losing their money if their tour firm fails: the financial safeguards even for non-ABTA members make that virtually certain.

But few can be certain of not having to pay surcharges, with a weakening pound, and dates, timings and even venues of holiday could also be uncertain.

If your tour firm should fail before you go, for instance, the one that rescues you may not have the holiday you wanted.

If early bookings continue so sluggishly, tour firms will cut back their commitments and move clients about to "consolidate" their programmes. And if those "consolidations" are made too drastically and too soon, a holiday shortage will result and late bookers may be disappointed.

All in all, then, an unpredictable year ahead, with too many tour firms (some 700 of them) jostling for a market that, although expected to reach the 9 million mark, is still not growing fast enough to keep all of them in business.

The safest short-term option for holiday shoppers is probably to book with one of the giant companies, but in the longer term that could be self-defeating.

The best holiday ideas have traditionally come from smaller, more creative firms. A holiday market dominated by giants who see their clients as mere units rather than living people, and whose main aim is simply to grow bigger at their rivals' expense, would soon become bland and boring, selling increasingly stereotyped holidays that could, as competition dwindles, become costlier too.

That is the gloomiest possibility, and it may never happen: I believe there are enough discerning people around to keep the smaller, specialist firms buoyant.

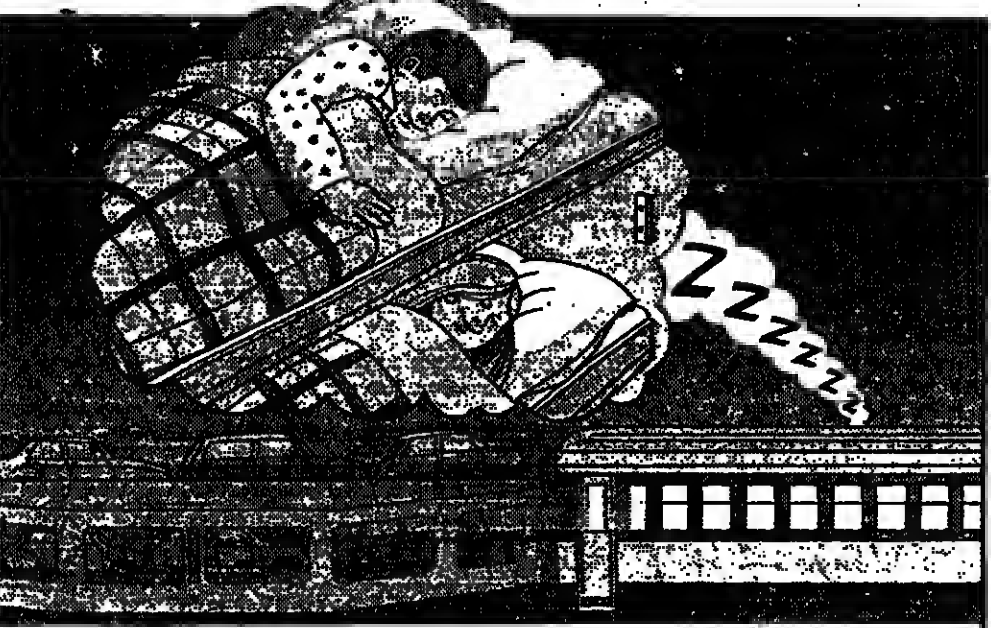
In this belief, we have taken an optimistic, set-up-and-go theme for the first of our 1985 travel features.

Elisabeth de Stroumillo

Agrirento, all have their own dramatic character.

A lovely place to stay would be Erice, at the far west end of Sicily, on a mountain top that rises sheer above the heat and salt pans of Trapani yet is often cool and foggy. Here, amid tiny medieval streets and total tranquillity, the small Hotel Modero (double room with breakfast about £25) offers some of the best cuisine in the area, with particularly luscious sweets.

With Allegro Holidays a half-board week at the Villa Sant'Andrea costs from £374. At the Hotel Ipanema a week with half-board costs from £336; a hire-car is from £98 per week.



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# Taking some rough walks back into history

**A**NCIENT olive groves, hot sun, a blindingly blue sea, and the ruins of once-great cities line the Aegean coast of Turkey.

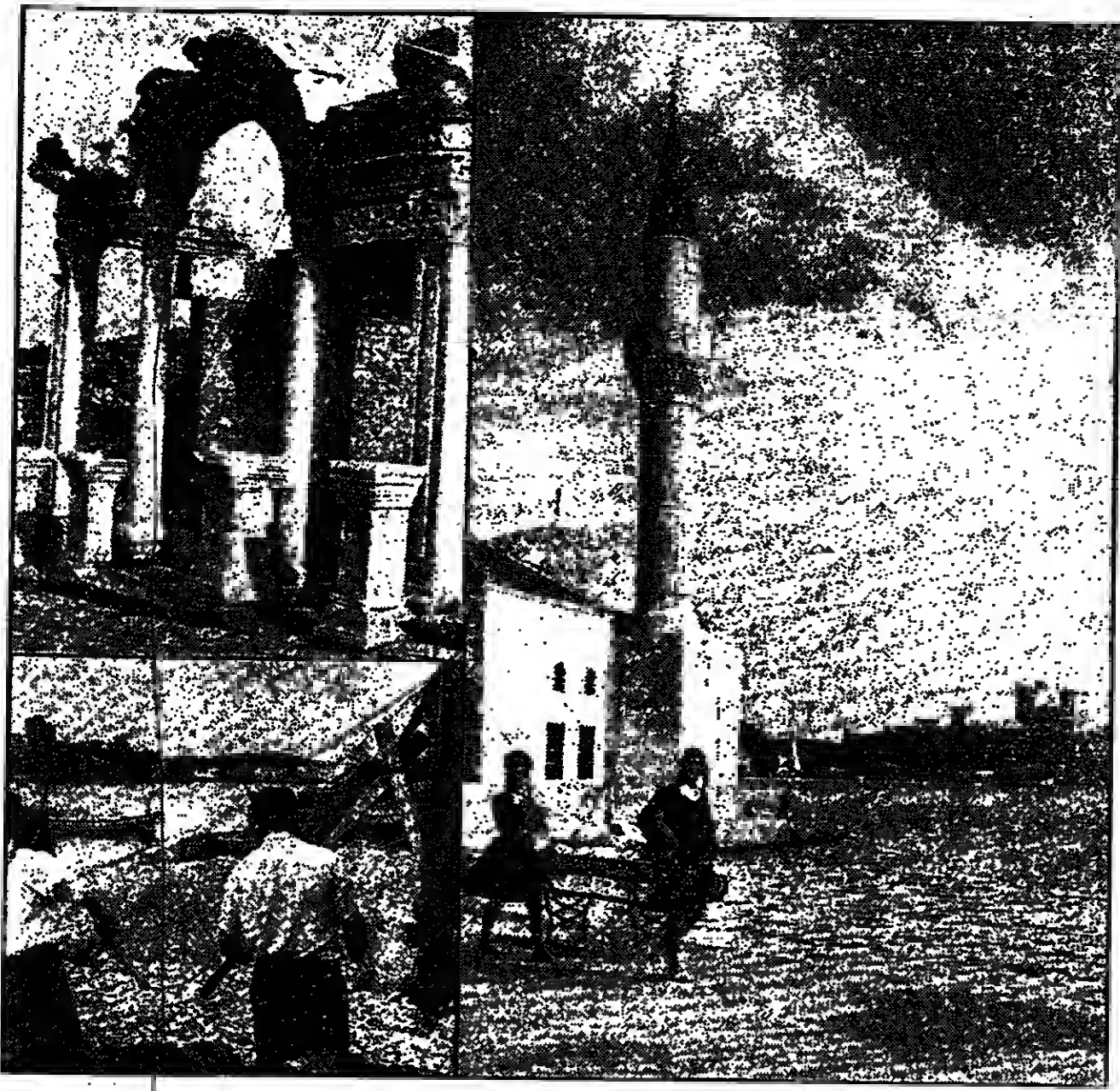
You can have a memorable holiday here if, like me, you enjoy combining conventional pursuits with the exploration of things antique. In Turkey there are myriad half-hidden ancient settlements, the only sound the somnolent chirp of crickets and the clipping of the archaeologist's tool.

You can wander at will, as we did at Aphrodisias, in an overgrown garden of delights finding streets, rooms and squares among the columns and shattered tiles. You are left to your own to look where you wish, so it is sensible to take a guidebook — more sensible to take two or three, for in comparing we found that some dismiss a site briefly, some excite the imagination, some actually give factual information. (The Cape "Travellers' Guide" and the Nagel were best.)

Thus we tumbled upon Nyssa, straddling its mountain gorge and quite deserted except for a dozing guard siring his bare feet to the sun. Hurriedly he put on his shoes, took us around the site, and pointed out bits that one might otherwise miss. So we tramped up to the semi-circular gerontikon (meeting place of the elders), found the famous library, and walked through the Roman tunnel that vaulted over the mountain stream carrying on its arched brick back the main town square.

The site was but seven kilometres from the main road, yet seemed another world. We tipped the guard a couple of pounds and he directed us to a local café, where we ate lamb roasted in an outdoor underground oven with pitta bread, along with an array of salads and yogurt. With wine the bill was about £1.50 each.

You will probably take in the major sites such as Ephesus and Pamukkale,



BY MICHAEL LEECH

and for those who don't want to drive themselves, there are day-excursions from such resorts as Kusadasi. (Ephesus about £8, Pergamon £16, about the same for Pamukkale.)

Entry to the sites is cheap (Ephesus at about 40p was the most expensive) and the hucksters selling everything from scarves to carpets are blessedly low-key. The sites are well marked with distinctive yellow road signs. Bodrum doesn't need such signs: it is a popular little place rather

like a Turkish St Tropez, but here you will find ancient Halicarnassus.

There isn't much left of the famous mausoleum erected by a grieving wife of King Mausolus, and the Turks will remind you that large chunks of it are in the British Museum.

Of much more fascination was Knidos, for which you will need to take a boat from Bodrum's harbour, for the roads to this tiny place are poor. Knidos was the place where the famous statue of Aphrodite by Praxiteles stood in

a blue marble temple on the hill — you can still see the floor of this circular building in a jumble of ancient rooms.

Allabanda, not far from Cine, on the highway, is a neglected place, part explored, but mostly under the straggling homes of a poor Turkish village. Learn a few words of Turkish greeting and how your heads to the villagers, who respond at once with like gravity. The theatre is a great scoop of earth, the market or agora mere granite stumps in a field, the odeon a pile of giant stones across a field.

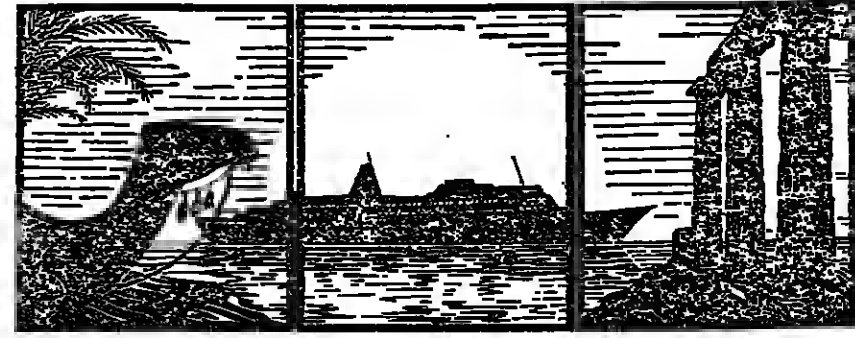
Miletos is easy to get to and is still being excavat-

ed. Here there is another massive theatre, complete with auditorium tunnels, so you can sense what it was like to attend a spectacle there.

Walking to Miletos is across rough terrain with rocks: it was easier in Aphrodisias, which is on a plain near the village of Ceyre. Don't miss its museum, it has some splendid sculpture. The Turks are excavating here.

Connection Holidays do packages to Turkey. Stay-at-home holidays in Kusadasi are from £249 per person, half-board; fly-drive arrangements go from £229 for a week.

## SEA PRINCESS

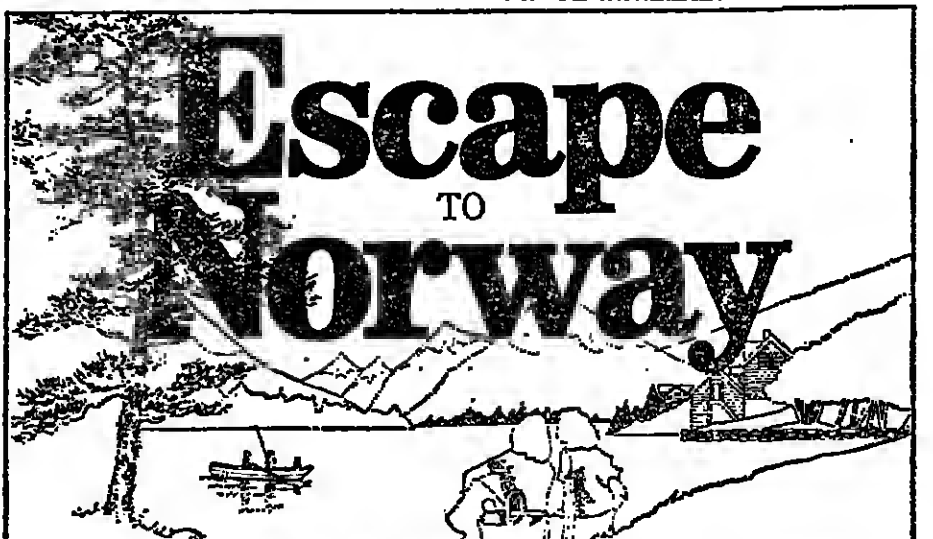


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## When beauty reaches its peak in that mountain air

**F**ROM our table by the window we looked out on a green valley with wooded upper slopes rising to a wall of mountains, snowfields glittering in the sunshine. On the table before us was the overtone to a feast: a dozen different dishes with a variety of fish, shellfish, sausages, meat, and salads. Precious little room after that for the paella with huge prawns, and then the wild boar stewed with red wine and herbs.

"It must be the mountain air," we said, as we continued with a local cheese and a crate of red wine, and finished with the Spanish version of crème caramel, slightly crumbly on top. Such was lunch, at a little more than £9 each, at the Parador Nacional Valle de Aran in the Spanish Pyrenees.

We had come from France via Montreuil, through the upper valley of the Garonne, and into Spain on the N230, a remarkably easy road along the valley bottom, with no dramatic twists or climbs, and often beside the young Garonne tumbling clear over its rocky bed. The parador stands just above the small town of Vielha, which lies at the confluence of the Garonne and the Rio Noguera. Vielha attracts tourists both in summer and winter as it is an accommodation base for the ski slopes of Baqueira-Beret, and so has a number of hotels, and also another parador at Arres, a few kilometres distant.

These are only two of several paradises on the Spanish slopes of the Pyrenees which could be used on a motorway tour through this lovely region of green daisies shaded by pine oaks and walnuts, of high mountain passes, dramatic gorges, trout streams and waterfalls. The peaceful towns and old villages with their crumbling fortifications and 12th-century churches, the new ski resorts,

By Rex Grizell

the changing vistas of idyllic valleys and majestic peaks make this an area full of variety and pleasant surprise. From Vielha the main road leads through the longest tunnel in Spain (5km) to the southern slopes of the Pyrenees and the road to Lerdida. We chose an alternative road east to Salardu, an attractive old place with a ruined castle, past the ski resorts, then on to the pass of Puerto de la Bonigua (nearly 7,000ft) and on to Sor and Tramp, a switchback of valleys and mountain passes. From Tramp you can carry on to Balaguer and then back up the valley of the Segre to Seo de Urgel, passing through the Organa gorge, with cliffs almost 2,000ft high. At Seo de Urgel, a pleasant town with a fine 12th-century cathedral, you can take the road into Andorra. This little state, ruled jointly by France and Spain, was once a

romantic and almost inaccessible mountain fastness. It is now a paradise only for bargain hunters and tax refugees. The one main road has the gaudier of every kind of duty-free shop. In August it can take hours to cover a few miles and, if you are on your way to France, you arrive at the bottom of the highest road pass in the Pyrenees, the Puerto de Envalira (7,955ft), with the car engine already boiling.


The alternative from Seo de Urgel is to take the road to Puigcerdà and the green valleys and rolling hills of the Cerdas, and on to Ribas de Freser and along the river to Ripoll. The scenery on this route is gentler with beautiful spots for quiet picnics.

From Ripoll you can take the road to Vic and the parador, or carry on to Olot and Figueras to join the autoroute, or spend a night in the Hotel Duran, with its excellent restaurant, in Figueras.

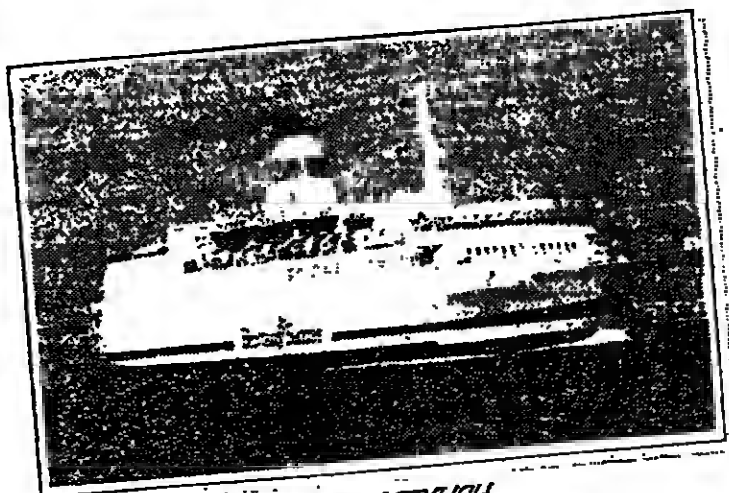
A tour in this region should be taken in a leisurely manner, going wherever fancy takes you, making your own choices and discoveries. It would be a pity to make the trip without staying in at least one parador, though their accommodation prices have doubled in the past few years. (A double room, half-board, averages £37 in May/June.)

It is best to go in early summer, from mid-May to mid-July, when the sun is still high and day fingers on, and the roads are almost empty. Fly-drive to Toulouse: £172 apiece for two for a June week, with Air France.


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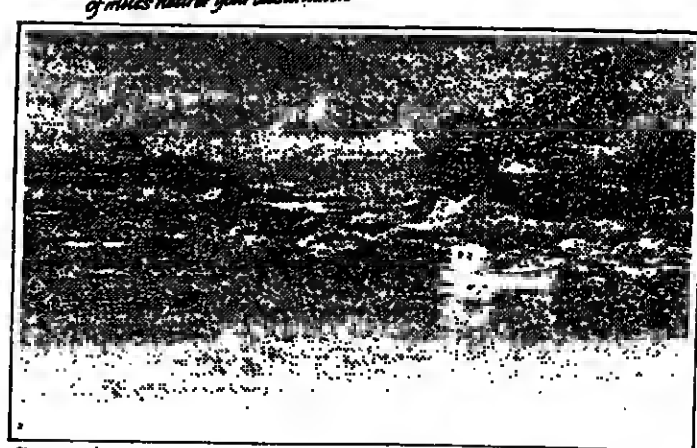
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## A POUND LIKE ALICE

OTHER TIMES, OTHER CUSTOMS. Seventeen years ago HAROLD WILSON's devaluation of the pound was widely interpreted as a national humiliation, from which his first government was never fully to recover. Today, as sterling shrinks as fast as Alice towards an unimagined parity with the dollar, the news is greeted with applause in Throgmorton Street and hardly rates a headline. Such are the changing perspectives of fashion.

The response of the Stock Market is eminently logical. A \$1.15 pound is as good for corporate profits as the \$2.40 of four short years ago was bad. The insouciance of the authorities is somewhat more debatable. To the extent that a plunging pound is no more than the reflection of a stratospheric dollar, benign neglect is assuredly the course of wisdom. Dearest dollars mean richer pickings for the Treasury from North Sea oil, and richer pickings for the private sector from the soft underbelly of the American market. The headaches are on the brow of Mr VOLCKER, chairman of the Federal Reserve. Similarly a "hands-off" approach is justified toward the repercussions of speculation about a collapse in the price of oil. This could eventually hit the Chancellor's oil revenues and call in question the profitability of some North Sea oil. But the accompaniment of weak commodities should do much to mitigate the impact of dearer imports on domestic expectations of inflation.

In two respects, however, the Government will need to watch its step. Were the latest attempts to patch up Opec's cartel to tear apart, then the Chancellor's ambitious plans for tax reductions in the spring would have to be deferred: indeed some recoupment of lost oil revenues might well be required. But even if Opec does contrive to hold together, the accumulating evidence of loose credit conditions indicated by the rate of private borrowing, and of public spending overshooting, is not to be ignored. The Government is going to have to do a lot of funding in the months up to the budget; and if that proves incompatible with current rates of interest, then a Chancellor who wishes his commitment to continued progress with inflation to be taken seriously must be prepared if need be to contemplate a higher rate to tempt the saver.

## DEALING WITH LIBYA

NOT FOR THE FIRST TIME Mr TERRY WAITE, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, has done very fine work in negotiating for the release of four British citizens held as hostages by the Libyan Government of Col. GADDAFI. What will happen in the case of Mr MAXWELL, another victim, is not resolved. No praise can be too high for both the achievement and the personal bearing of Mr WAITE, one of those Anglican clergymen who win the natural respect even of those who do not share the Church's beliefs. What we must not do, however, is to respond to Col. GADDAFI's fairly straightforward psychological ploy by clapping our hands like fools and saying: "Oh wonderful, let's be friends all over again." Rather too much blood has run under bridges for that. It is often supposed that the British have defective memories and in their amiable latitudinarian way, will thrust any iniquity into oblivion for the sake of rubbing along with the offender. The memory of WPC YVONNE FLETCHER is green: we saw too many pictures of that girl's body to be greatly impressed by protests from Libya at this late hour that her murder was the "act of a madman." That wasn't what the Libyans said at the time!

We also recollect that, to our lasting shame, the forms of diplomatic protocol were so nicely observed that the man who took that girl's life went home with a police guard protecting him. The Home Secretary lost respect in that episode so one is pleased to hear that the Foreign Office response to West Arabian small talk has been distant and cool. It should stay cool. We are anxious to protect or release our citizens. Most people think it an act of folly to go to Libya or to stay there. But we do not seek normal relations with Libya because it is not a normal country. When Britain arranges attempted assassinations of British students in Stockholm or offers the Swedish metal workers union subventions to finance a major strike or promises funds to violent separatists on a Baltic island, we shall expect and deserve unfriendly, undiplomatic and ultimately extinguished relations with the Swedish Government. As it is, civilised and rational people should keep together and deal with one another, even if there is some antipathy. The present régime in Libya simply does not belong.

## The language of God

By the Very Rev. MICHAEL STANCLIFFE  
Dean of Winchester

TRUE listening and not least listening to God requires expectancy, attention and responsiveness. But how can we suppose we can listen to God? Is it suggested that he literally makes sounds which our eardrums can register? The Hebrews, in their early days at least, believed precisely that.

This may seem strange, even childish and ridiculous, to us children of a scientific age, but we should realise that they did not have any difficulty about this because they were of their fundamental beliefs that when God did any mighty work he performed it not by hand but by mouth. He said: "Let there be light," and there was light (Genesis 1.3). By the word of the Lord were the heavens made (Psalm 33.6). And because they took it for granted that this was so they assumed that in any unusual, loud, or unexpected sound—the crash and rumble of thunder, the roar of mighty waters, the drumming of torrential rain, the whistling and shrieking of storm-force winds and even the sound of a slight breeze if it came unexpectedly—God was speaking. And while the ordinary man might not be able to understand what God was telling them in such sounds, there were certain individuals who possessed the power to interpret them and translate the language of God into the language of men.

There is evidence that such thinking survived into the New Testament period: "A voice sounded from heaven... The crowd standing by said it was thunder, while others said: 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus replied: 'This voice spoke for your sake...' (John 12.28-30). But by that time it had come to be more generally understood that the language of God was a language of visible signs, such as a burning bush or the appearance of an unknown star, rather than one of audible sounds; and further, that in certain gifted individuals the voice of God was an inner voice speaking in the heart of those individuals.

Tota lingua us to the phrase—which Christians have reckoned in the course of the Liturgy week after week for centuries, confessing their belief in the Holy Ghost "who spoke by the prophets." More of this next week.

Church services tomorrow—PS

STAN GEBLER DAVIES

reflects on the scene of Mr Reagan's visit

## Ballyhoo, the story of a small Irish village

IT is thought a pity in Tipperary that Mr Mondale did not put up a better show in the American Presidential stakes. Not that they wanted him to win, for that would have been a disaster for the nascent Reagan tourist industry, but they are a betting people who could not find a bookmaker or even a visiting Democrat demented enough to offer odds on the election.

Ballyporeen expected its exiled son to win his second term and hopes only that he will spend more time there than was available last June. It is whispered that he told the American ambassador just that after he left: "I wish I could have stayed longer."

A flood of tourists did not materialise. The locals, inclined to take all things but "sport" lightly, are not much worried: if there is a flood of Americans next year in search of roots they will be very happy to cater for them, but if there is not they will get by very well without them.

The main street (indeed the only street) is curiously reminiscent of the set of a Hollywood Western at the moment when the bad guys are about to turn the corner and open up on the Sheriff as he strides, alone, past the saloon, to meet them. This cannot have occurred to Ronald Reagan who, in any case, was usually cast either as the bad guy or as the weak guy who loses the girl and takes a bullet, since the street was packed with 4,000 strangers when he was there.

The backdrop could not be more spectacular. There are mountains on either side. Not much activity is evident. The bus from Cork to Clonmel passes through on an autumn afternoon. Some curious faces stare out at the Ronald Reagan Lounge but nly one person alights. He slips smartly into another of the six pubs and conducts his business, whatever it is, in 30 seconds flat while the bus waits.

Across the road is so far the only concrete evidence of the visit, in the shape of twin memorials. A sign on the side of the handball court proclaims a Ronald Reagan museum, which has yet to be built.

● Ferdinand Mount will resume his Commentary next week.

## A Kentish castle for Arafat?

YASSER ARAFAT, the Palestinian Liberation Organisation leader, who is expected to visit Britain shortly, poses a major security headache which could, I hear, be solved by one of the richest men in the world.

Some 50 attempts have been made to go Arafat's life. His presence in Britain on a private visit completely rules out ordinary hotels or houses.

One possible base for the former terrorist could be provided by Sayed Mohammed Mahdi Al-Tajer, the billionaire United Arab Emirates Ambassador in London, who has half a dozen homes here—many equipped with the necessary security precautions.

His splendid Palladian house, Mereworth Castle, which stands amid 350 acres of parkland and forest in Kent, is seen as the most likely headquarters for Arafat. With an indoor tennis court, heated swimming pool, 14 man-made lakes, nine bedrooms, eight dressing rooms and seven staff flats it provides all the space and security Arafat and his men will need.

## Etonian first

NOEL BLAKISTON, the former principal assistant keeper at the Public Records Office who wrote short-stories in his spare time and who was aged 79, was the first Honorary Fellow to be elected by Eton for more than 300 years.

In 1938 he was recruited by the then Vice-Provost, Sir Henry Marten, to catalogue the archives of the college estates—more than 10,000 documents from the early Middle Ages to the end of the 19th century. Blakiston, honoured by his alma mater in 1974, had a vivid memory of his schooldays. He was approached on the cricket field one day by George Orwell, who announced:

"I am collecting the religions of the boys. Are you Cynic, Stoic, Epicurean, Cynic, Neoplatonist, Confucius or Zoroastrian?"

"I'm a Christian," replied Blakiston. "Oh," said Orwell, "we haven't had that before."

## Out of steam

IT is only two and a half years since the name of the carrier Hermes was on everyone's lips when she was the flagship of the Falklands task force.

Today the ship lies in Portsmouth harbour, still at 30 days notice for sea but in reality a mere shadow of her former might.

A colleague who visited recently reports that the junior ratings among her 100 skeleton crew now occupy the wardroom while the officers have



The main street of Ballyporeen today, in front of the Ronald Reagan Lounge. The hoped-for flood of tourists failed to materialise.

but the President did unveil a plaque.

The other memorial is ungraced by the Great Seal of the President of the United States but is none the less appreciated. Sited sensibly opposite the church and completed in time for the visit is a pair of public conveniences constructed and maintained to a high standard.

When the locals are not talking about himself from Washington or pulling the legs of tourists, they have recourse to their own traditional amusements. These include the venerable pastimes of watching television or playing pool in O'Farrell's bar, while the sport offered by their incomparable surroundings is not neglected by the natives of Ballyporeen. Finch-catching was once popular. The technique, it was explained to me by the last practising birdman, was first to secure a male specimen and glue him to a tree branch. He would, in his loneliness, commence singing, and would, in due course, be joined by some admiring female member of his species. It was the work of a moment to fetch the female from the glue which had trapped her also, and pop her in a cage.

"They would fetch a pound each," I was told, "but that was before the buggeries caught on." I bought the man a pint.

The shooting is excellent, though it is not conducted precisely as in Norfolk or Yorkshire. As elsewhere in rural Ireland, the locals are organised into gun clubs and bang away at ducks, woodcock and the pheasants they breed themselves.

They hardly bother with pigeons and the snipe from bogland is thought to be too fast and tricky to be worth blasting at, besides it taking too many of them to cover a plate.

There is a remarkable parliamentary forum nearby. In 1853, when the Presidential great-grandparent was four years old, an agricultural labourer named Cudron dropped a crowbar down

taken over the captain's accommodation.

Hermes has always been a versatile ship as one of her former officers Lt. Cdr Tony Dyson recalls in a new book, "HMS Hermes 1959-84." During the carrier's quarter of a century of service she has been a conventional aircraft carrier, a Commando ship and an anti-submarine helicopter carrier, a role she finally committed with operating Sea Harriers during her most vital South Atlantic mission.

## Lamb to the slaughter

A BRIEF service will be held today at All Saints Church, Edmonton, to commemorate the essayist Charles Lamb, who is buried there and died 150 years ago this week.

Remembered now for a few essays and his "Tales from Shakespeare" Lamb tried his hand less successfully as a playwright. His play "Mr H" was booed from the stage at Drury Lane and he said he joined the hissing himself.

Significantly, it crossed the Atlantic and was a great success in America.

## Hit of the day

TERRORIST hitlists are getting longer all the time and some highly unlikely names now regard themselves as prime targets, according to a list published in *Essex* magazine. The house organ of those American institutions devoted to discovering reds under the bed.

The latest issue numbers Lyndon and Helga Zepp-LaRouche alongside more obvious targets such as President Reagan and Rajiv Gandhi. Lyndon and Helga who?

Close examination of the Review shows Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., is founder and contributing editor of the publication.

I am intrigued to learn that Reading West Conservative Association (member of parliament Tony Durnan, a Government whip) has moved its offices into the same building as the British Damp Course Association.

## Flags of convenience

MY NOTES about Whiskey, the Scottie dog whose wartime service was recalled in a plaque unearthed at the Army Air Corps Centre at Middle Wallop in Hampshire, prompted recollections from one reader of a dog which appears to have served with the British and German armies, the Indian Army and the RAF.

The dog, a black Aberdeen terrier, was found tied to the wrist of a dead German officer after the first battle of El Alamein. Its captor, an Indian Army officer, discovered that the animal abroad understood commands in English and surmised that it had belonged to a British soldier.

The animal accompanied him to the staff college at Quetta and was later handed over to members of the RAF in the Middle East. It may even have been passed on to Royal Navy staff serving at Naval head-

quarters in Aden—and if so, must have had a more varied career than anyone else in the 1939-45 War.

## Hard act to swallow

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE's cricket captain and former England batsman Geoff Cook is recuperating at home after a major throat operation which temporarily placed him in intensive care.

Cook, currently chairman of the Cricketers' Association, has found great difficulty swallowing for the last 18 months but the operation, involving the removal of a rib, now means he will be fully fit before next season.

The operation has caused Cook to spend his first winter at home, instead of touring, since 1977. It will also enable him to enjoy the dimmers prepared in his honour during his benefit season this coming year.

## No offence meant

WOULD-BE airline passengers are not advised to read too much into the titles of programmes sold recently by BBC Enterprises to both El Al and Saudia Airlines, a feat of which they are proud and which demonstrates proper BBC impartiality.

Christmas treats for El Al travellers were "Are You Being Served?" and for Saudia a "light-hearted thriller" after Dornford Yates called "She Fell Among Thieves."

## Drop in the ocean

GUILTY consciences among the nation's taxpayers appear to be on the increase. The latest Consolidated Fund Account for 1983-84 presented to Parliament shows that the amount of "conscience money" received by the Treasury is up by nearly 50 per cent, from £1.030 in 1982-83 to £1.520 last year.

According to the Treasury, the money comes to a anonymously from people who have evaded taxes or received social security benefits to which they were not entitled.

Clearly, most consciences remain untroubled by such frauds. The sum repaid represents just a drop in the ocean of the total Consolidated Fund receipts last year of £89,853,885,692.

## Stab in the Offenbach

FROM THE LEICESTER MERCURY: "Mr Knapp, the new director of Opera at the Royal Academy of Music where he has just produced *All Fierce in the Underworld*, will present a Christmas Celebration with words and music at the end of this month."

PETERBOROUGH

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Sloppy clues to cipher codes

SIR—Your Science Correspondent's intriguing article on ciphers (Dec. 24), overlooks the fact that, although mathematics and computers are vital to the penetration of any cipher system, far more messages are likely to be decrypted due to sloppy cipher and keying procedures by bored operators, defectors, or the retrotransmission of high-grade material in either low-grade ciphers, or even plaintext, as occurred during the Bismarck action in 1941.

When the German Enigma electro-mechanical cipher machine of the last war was used correctly it could not be broken and, indeed, many keys including the Gestapo TGD, Pike, Thetis, Barracuda, Tibet, and the Special Cipher 100, all survived the war intact despite considerable daily use.

Any cipher system handling volume traffic under difficult combat conditions must be capable of being clearly and easily understood by those involved without too much complexity. Otherwise messages reach their destination corrupt requiring endless repetition which affords cryptanalysts additional opportunities to eavesdrop, and operators will become bored and start taking short-cuts such as using the same key twice over, or adopting identical prefixes for routine traffic.

Moreover, if the system uses a key of any kind it is immediately vulnerable to capture or theft by a spy or defector, which raises the risk of having the key compromised. It is a well-known fact, exposed as happened when Igor Gouzenko, the Russian cipher clerk, defected from the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa in 1945.

It is because of these problems that today all important military and political traffic is sent by telecipher, a combination of an electronic one-time pad with an ordinary telex, which has the advantage of being able to use normal public circuits, because its ciphertext output consists only of random letters, often padded out with a bogus text to confuse traffic analysis.

Even here there are points to watch. The random key must never be used twice, and the plaintext of the messages must not be revealed in the same form as they were transmitted. This is why, for example, we cannot see the exact texts of the messages sent by the Ministry of Defence to HMS Conqueror during the Belgrano action, since the Russian equivalent of GCHQ will have intercepted and recorded these and an insight into even part of the plaintext would give them the opportunity of reconstructing the random key tape for that period.

JAMES RUSBRIDGE

St Austell, Cornwall.

## Speed of light

SIR—An error crept into my Christmas science quiz of Dec. 24. Question 6 should have read: "How long would it take for a light beam to traverse the diameter of the earth's orbit?"

ADRIAN BERRY

Science Correspondent, Daily Telegraph.

## BBC sponsors

SIR—The BBC is probably the best broadcasting organisation in the world. It maintains—and deserves—high respect to other countries. Some quality television programmes would clearly be ruined if commercials were inserted, or even shown before and after them. Popular peak broadcasts on radio and television would not suffer as much.

Commercial support is possible without overt advertising, *per se*, indeed it appears to happen already. In particular, sports events appear with clear indications of their sponsors' "celebrities" blatantly advertise their latest book or album or current show.

The majority of us BBC devotees are really only concerned with the maintenance of two things: standards and independence. If commercial sponsorship can help to achieve this, for the benefit of viewers and listeners—and at the same time keep the fees down—we shall not mind.

DAVID WARD

Tonnes, Devon.

## Helping hand

SIR—As the £1 coin is here to stay, perhaps the British male will now accept the man's handbag and realise that it will improve his appearance and help to lengthen the life of his suits.

J. A. HORNE

Southampton.

## How lawyers can cut costs

SIR—Mr H. J. Morgan (Dec. 20) is concerned about deals being done in the corridors of courts and thinks it was time the Law Society and Bar Council looked into the business of "corridor deals" to the business whether arrangements to settle could not be arrived at long before the parties come to court.

Mr Morgan should realise that lawyers spend a considerable amount of time persuading clients not to spend money on legal services but to settle the cases before substantial costs are incurred in court.

Unfortunately clients often do not accept such advice. If, as in the case Mr Morgan quoted, it is a dispute between a landlord and tenant, the parties already have had many dealings with each other and have probably decided to make a stand on "a question of principle."

This may be loosely interpreted as refusing to give an inch until compelled to do so, and if the party does not get what he wants, deciding to get some satisfaction by refusing to pay his solicitor's costs.

Once the parties are in the corridors of the court, and the possibility of having to go in the box and give evidence and be cross-examined becomes not just a distant possibility but a reality in the next hour, a more reasonable attitude prevails which would not have been thought possible when the parties were still fighting their action through solicitors' letters.

It is for this reason that there exists in county courts a "pre-trial review" in which the Registrar sorts out the issues between the parties and very often an opportunity arises for settlement.

However, no lawyer can compel a client to settle and if he wishes to continue, the only recourse a lawyer has is to insist that his costs are paid in advance. This is a well-known principle that nothing evaporates with a greater speed than gratitude.

However, in many cases the parties are legally aided and with the knowledge that the State will be paying the lawyers' fees, the parties are prepared to fight to the last drop of the State's blood.

Lawyers have a duty to ensure that Legal Aid money is not wasted; far from the Law Society and Bar Council "looking into the business of corridor deals," the two professional bodies concerned actively encourage lawyers to negotiate settlements and prevent a waste of legal aid funds.

I do find that much criticism of lawyers come from people without much practical knowledge of that which is happening.

Those with such practical knowledge dismiss the criticisms with a weary smile as not worth the trouble of putting right.

JAMES CHALMERS-PARK

Pinner, Middlesex.

## How's that!

SIR—One reads reports implying that cricket umpires in India and Pakistan are incompetent. This is not so.

An umpire standing in a first-class match must have perfect eyesight and needle sharp reflexes to monitor the progress of a ball travelling at up to 100 mph and to make immediate decisions relative to each ball bowled. I am sure that all Indian/Pakistani umpires standing in Test Matches are entirely capable of reaching the correct decisions. The only trouble is that many of them do not.

I played a lot of cricket in East Pakistan and we were always taught that we must never, when batting, allow a ball to strike a pad or we would certainly be given out. When a pad was struck it was usual for every member of the fielding side (including cover point, square leg, deep third man) to leap in the air and appeal for 15 w. Once when I was batting I allowed a ball to strike my pad; there was the usual 11-man appeal.

When I noticed that the umpire at the bowlers end also raised his arms and shouted "how's that," I knew it had to be close. That was 30 years ago and it seems that nothing has changed.

I. C. G. SCOTT

Edinburgh.

## Tender thought

SIR—What has happened to mutton these days? Everything is lamb... are the lambs being born three times as big?

I never see mutton advertised at the butcher.

CAVAN O'CONNOR

London, W.14.

## The next step for Stansted Airport

SIR—Reduced to statutory essentials the last Stansted Airport inquiry arose out of a planning application "called in" by the Secretary of State for the Environment for his own determination.

In such circumstances the Secretary of State, in effect, assumes the status of a local planning authority and, in dealing with the application, he has a statutory obligation to have regard to the proposed development plan for the area in which the site is situated—so far as they may be material to the application—and to any other "material" considerations.

All such considerations, I venture to suggest, have been thoroughly examined at a prolonged inquiry held by a Queen's Counsel whose wide experience in the planning and development spheres is well known. His report and recommendations have now been submitted to the Secretary of State and published.

For the purposes of this letter the fact that the Minister of Transport has a concomitant jurisdiction in the case can, I think, be ignored. It is the Secretary of State's job to deal with the planning application and to decide whether planning permission should be granted in respect of it, refused, or that it should be put aside for one reason or another. I suggest that he has no other way out of this situation, the relevant statutory provisions being quite clear. His decision on an application so referred to him "shall be final."

Unusually, the Inspector's report and recommendations upon the Stansted Airport application are not accompanied by the customary "decision" letter on behalf of the Secretary of State. On the contrary, according to your columns, a parliamentary debate is expected to follow the publication of the report and it is said that "Minister(s) will then make a decision which will be announced to the public."

It seems to me that this process is bound to cause uneasiness. The question is whether a parliamentary debate on the subject is a "material consideration" which the Secretary of State may justifiably take into account in dealing with the planning application by decision. I venture to doubt it. Moreover,

it might be said that such a debate would be a form of inquiry in which actual parties whose representations have been accepted for hearing hitherto, are denied participation.

If such a procedure is going to be followed in the Stansted case how could it be related to the relation to any other application "called in" for Ministerial determination? Furthermore, since the Secretary of State's duties as an appellate authority in planning appeals spring from the same statutory source, is it not likely that Parliamentary debates might be argued as a precursor to appeal decisions in selected cases, to the confusion of the present system?

For the avoidance of doubt may I add that I have no involvement in the Stansted matter past, present or future.

HOWARD SHARP

London, S.W.1.

## Pursuit of 'growth'

SIR—Prof. Sir Colin Buchanan has hit the nail right on the head in his condemnation of the proposals for massive developments at Stansted (report, Dec. 17).

The pursuit of ill-defined "growth" as an end in itself has long been sacred among our politicians—regardless of whether we end up with a country where no one enjoys living and working. Not content with her announcement that a further quarter of a million pounds will be spent burying a vast acreage of our heritage under concrete, as a result of the M40 Oxford to Warwick extension, the Transport Minister, Mrs. Chalker, adds threateningly: "Those who suggest the road future efforts may be confined to care and maintenance are very far from the truth."

So the march of "progress" will continue and the motorways will stride ever onward. But could it be, when the dust clouds are finally settled, that it was Mrs Chalker, Mr Ridley and the rest of them that were "very far from the truth?"

JULIAN LLOYD WEBBER

London, N.W.5.



## 'Tough time' faces crewmen in Admiral's Cup

By TONY FAIRCHILD Yachting Correspondent

THE Admiral's Cup, which has attracted ten newcomers to what essentially is the world championship of ocean-racing and likely to cost British participants £3 million in new boats, will "be a nightmare for crewmen."

Mr Jonathan Bradbeer, vice-commodore of the five-race series, which begins from Cowes on July 31, added: "It will be an especially tough summer."

With 23 British boats, about a dozen of them new, expected to compete in the trials to decide the three-boat team for the international series, competition will be especially testing.

It will begin with tuning-up trials—getting yacht and crew to maximum efficiency—in early Spring, and as well as the normal summer racing programme, there will be five weeks of special selection events in June.

A number of the yachts involved in the Admiral's Cup trials will also be racing in the One Ton Cup, a world championship for craft of around 40-ft, and to be sponsored by Jaguar at Poole in mid-July.

### Demands on time

Mr Bradbeer said it seemed probable that because of demands on time and the probability that the British Admiral's Cup team will include one or more craft which has competed in the One Ton Cup, that there will be crew changes.

Owners of new boats spending around £250,000 on their craft, and adding about 8 to 1 against gaining selection for the Admiral's Cup—though ten British yachts will be able to compete in the One Ton Cup.

It is the "bonus" of being able to compete in the much acclaimed One Ton Cup event that is considered to have done most to attract so many newcomers to the Admiral's Cup.

These come from Scotland and the West Country—Local (P. Adams) respectively—and include property developers, bankers and restaurateurs.

Martha Gibson and Brian Swiby are among the property

## RSC to visit Poland in New Year

By HARVEY LEE Arts Staff

A TOUR of Poland by the Royal Shakespeare Company, the first in 13 years by a major British company, will next month lead £300,000 overseas cultural invasion unveiled yesterday by the British Council.

The plans also include the Royal Ballet in Hungary and East Germany, Ballet Rambert in Poland, the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields in Czechoslovakia, violinist Nigel Kennedy in Russia and a Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet tour of India, the first by a British dance company.

Mr Robert Sykes, director of Dance and Drama for the British Council, described the package as "the greatest concentration ever of British artistic talent in Eastern Europe."

The RSC visit is a diplomatic triumph for the British Council, which faces a shortfall of £2 million in its 1985/86 operating budget of £180 million because of cuts ordered by the Foreign Secretary.

### 13 performances

Almost 40 actors and technical staff will fly out to Warsaw on Jan. 14 after hurried negotiations earlier this month between the British Council, the RSC and the Polish authorities.

Touring productions of "The Winter's Tale" and "The Crucible," due to be disbanded at the end of the year will now play 13 performances in a students centre in Warsaw and a film studio in Wrocław.

The British Council will spend £75,000 on the RSC tour, and the Polish government has agreed to meet all hotel and travel expenses.

The last British company to visit Poland was also the RSC, when it played its acclaimed Peter Brook production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in Warsaw in 1972, as part of an Iron Curtain tour.

Music events being supported by the British Council in the first half of 1985 will include the English Baroque Soloists and the Monteverdi Choir performing Handel's "Israel in Egypt" in Halle, East Germany, the composer's birthplace, and a tour by the Academy of Ancient Music to Austria, Germany and Italy.

### Art tours

Art exhibitions will visit Sydney, Perth and Melbourne. For the autumn opening of "The Treasure Houses of Britain" at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, the British Council will ship out 800 art treasures.

The East European events are announced at a time when the British Council is about to begin delicate negotiations with Soviet officials over possible visits by British dance and drama companies in 1986.

Mr Sykes explained: "Ever since the recent ministerial exchanges we have been able to develop an understanding with Poland. We were only waiting for the right moment to send the best possible company."

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Senator Edward Kennedy meeting a group of children after food had been distributed in Om Sott, a Sudanese village badly affected by drought.

## Tightened security for royal pheasant shoot

PRINCE PHILIP headed the first pheasant shoot of the Royal Family's six-week New Year stay at Sandringham yesterday, amid the tightest security yet seen on the Royal estate.

Police dogs patrolled the 20,000-acre estate as Prince Philip drove a stretched shooting brake, loaded with fellow guns, out of the grounds of Sandringham House.

Police in unmarked cars constantly patrolled public roads on the estate, as the five-hour shoot got under way three miles from Sandringham.

Last season Prince Philip and his friends shot 4,000 pheasants, but birds are thinner on the ground this year. Storms during the breeding season killed off many chicks.

Prince Philip does not handle birds and relies entirely on wild game for his sport. During the past 20 years the Royal family have shot around 150,000 pheasants at Sandringham. Yesterday's bag is not expected to exceed 200 pheasants. Partridges are virtually non-existent.

Tomorrow as many as 10,000 people are expected to be in the royal park to greet the Queen when she attends morning service in the 150-seat parish church. The Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Rev. Maurice Wood will conduct the service.

Bags and cameras will be banned from the park, and some visitors may face body searches.

Prince Edward was ordered to avoid the most gruelling parts of a Commando assault course after telling senior Royal Marines officers that he had sprained his ankle playing tennis yesterday.

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## Council house rent arrears soar to £240m

By JOHN GRIGSBY Local Government Correspondent

COUNCIL rent arrears have trebled over the last three years and are still increasing fast. Latest figures show tenants owe local authorities more than £240 million.

The situation is worrying council leaders and politicians, but there is little Mr Jenkin, the Environment Secretary, and Mr Gow, the Minister for Housing and Construction, can do about it.

The collection of rents is a matter for the local authorities and there is no central control of the methods used.

In London alone, the total of back rent has risen by nearly 50 per cent over the last year, according to the journal *London Housing*. Tenants now owe £111 million, compared with £77 million a year ago.

A total of 350,000 tenants—four in every nine—are in arrears. One Lambeth family owes more than £7,000.

In Southwark nearly £20 million is owed, in Lambeth £8.5 million, in Islington £5.8, and in Brent £5.1 million.

Throughout the country, according to the Audit Commission, more than a million current tenants are in arrears.

Daunting problem The Commission says that a "daunting" problem faces housing managers. Without new approaches, the prospects of recovering more than a small fraction of the money is not good.

In 1980 arrears accounted for 3.8 per cent of the total rent roll. Last year they made up 5 per cent.

BRITISH SHIPS 35pc TRADE By Our Shipping Correspondent Only 35 per cent of Britain's international trade was carried by British ships last year, according to the annual survey of the Transport Department.

This was in value of goods and was the same as 1982 following a decline in earlier years. But in terms of weight of cargoes, there was a drop from 28 per cent in 1982 to 24 per cent in 1983.

(Business Monitor MA2, from H.M.S.O. £9.50.)

# New York and the hype of bad taste

In America, as in England, books are merchandise, with publishers pushing horror, sex...and business studies. But what has happened to Am. Lit.? Sebastian Faulks reports from New York, the nation's books capital.

Princess Diana's year: the impact that she has made on the public in the past twelve months is examined by Catherine Stott.

What shares to buy in 1985: our City experts make their predictions.

## In The Colour Magazine

What's new in travel: in the first of a series 'Breaking new ground' - Travel 1985, Brendan Lehan looks back on lazy days in Antigua. Is the West Indies resort still a dream island in the sun?

Round-up of the passing year: Anthony Haden-Guest says 1984 did not bear out Orwell's predictions yet 'everything, despite some lighter moments, was far from hunky-dory.'

In tomorrow's

## SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

35p with Telegraph Sunday Magazine. Order your copy now.

## Anti-vandal trains prove a big success

By STANLEY GOLDSMITH

Q TRAINS, an anti-vandal scheme pioneered by British Rail on Tyneside and Merseyside, have proved so effective in Glasgow that Scottish Region is to introduce a fourth such train in the Edinburgh area.

## Literary scene hucksters

"LOOK how much time Norman Mailer wastes on having to be Norman Mailer. Thus John Updike talking to Sebastian Faulks about one of America's most successful authors.

But success in American publishing these days is not going so much to the old-school writers as to a new breed specialising in horror, sex...and business studies.

In THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH tomorrow Sebastian Faulks reports from the centre of U.S. publishing, New York—a whacky city where publishers hype their wares with rare fillets of beef, breath-taking dry martinis and slick chat.

On other occasions, police detained a teenaged motorcyclist practising trials riding at 50 mph along the permanent way, and two prostitutes entertaining a client on a quiet stretch of track.

Scotland's share of the £5 million a year rail vandalism bill is about £800,000, but Merseyside is another big problem area.

There, offenders came to recognise the two-car diesel unit used by the police, and would flee as it approached. So a diesel locomotive and goods van were pressed into service as a special Q-train, resulting in a huge increase in arrests in the docks areas.

A spokesman for London Midland Region said: "These trains are very effective, but a high proportion of those detained are under 10 years old, and cannot be prosecuted."

MP's CHALET PLANS STOPPED Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Conservative MP for Gloucester, has been stopped from building 20 fishermen's chalets on land beside the river Severn near the city.

Mr Jenkin, Environment Secretary, has rejected plans by Norton and Sandhurst Estates to build the timber chalets on land owned by Mrs Oppenheim at Norton, near Gloucester, on the grounds that it would have an adverse impact on the environment.

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## WOGAN QUILTS RADIO TWO FOR TV WORK

Terry Wogan quit BBC radio yesterday after broadcasting his final Radio Two breakfast programme.

He said: "I don't think there will be too many tears. A year from now people will say: 'Who was that fellow who used to do the morning show?'"

Wogan, who had 12 years on radio, has given it up to concentrate on a new three-times-a-week BBC TV chat show, due to start in February.

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## PRINCE SPRAINS ANKLE

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## INVESTMENT & BUSINESS

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### STOCK EXCHANGE

## Markets full of sparkle

STOCK markets shook-off their post-Christmas malaise yesterday as institutional buyers returned to the industrial sector, albeit on a selective basis. Speculators joined in the fun of the annual guessing game about prospective New Year share recommendations, while takeover hopes again prompted bright features.

The upshot was that prices rebounded with alacrity in a market short of stock and the main indices powered ahead to record levels.

The "30" index ended 16.2 higher at 945.2, against the previous high of 942.6, and the "100" index 14.7 up at 1225.6, against 1220.6.

New Year selections by stock-pickers, James Capel, were eagerly followed and prompted strength in Thoro EMI, 17 up at 487p, after 471p, Jaguar, 12 better at 254p, after 240p, and B&W, 13 higher at 465p, and Vickers 4 to the good at 215p.

Major exporters to meet solid support included BTR, 12 up at 606p, and Hawker Siddeley, 14 higher at 427p. British Telecom, due to produce an interim report on January 10, ended 14p firmer at 105 1/2p, after 104 1/2p.

Matthew Brown was again outstanding in the brewery section on persistent talk about a possible takeover offer from Scottish & Newcastle, despite the company's denial of any bid approach, 646p, after 640p.

Shares ended 28 higher at 310p, after 315p.

Bid suggestions were also heard in Mercantile House, 24 up at 344p, and McCorquodale, 17 to the good at 163p.

### Fresh interest

Old takeover favourites to meet new interest on talk of prospective New Year developments include Rowntree Macintosh, 8 up at 385p; Davy Corporation, 5 better at 874p; and Mirmid-Quelcast, 2 1/2 firmer at 89p.

Blue Arrow made further headway to 124p, a rise of 28 p.c. since the takeover mention on Dec. 12; the market is expecting acquisition news next month.

Arthur Guinness, 5 1/2 reflecting the recent announcement about the neighbourhood Stores acquisition, gained 12 more to 232p. Solid support brought gains of 8p to 11p in Lucas Industries, at 248p; Associated Dairies, at 162p; Tate and Lyle, at 438p; and Grand Metropolitan, at 513p.

Rank moved ahead under the lead of Lloyds, finally 10 higher at 532p, while elsewhere in the financial sector Charterhouse J. Rothschild were again favoured at 108p, a rise of 5p.

Life insurance issues met selective demand, and Legal & General were in the fore with a gain of 15 to 555p.

Buyers were again operating in Eastern Produce, which climbed 17 more to a peak of 570p.

Rank, which had been improved to 128p after the cheerful tone of the annual review, while Wm Low gained 8 to 513p on the acquisition announcement.

Gains of 8p were also recorded by Metal Box, at 400p, and Haden, at 182p.

Reports of good trading in the sales encouraged renewed interest in stores issues. J. Hepworth finished 10 higher at 177p, equivalent to 522p in their old form; on October 31 when the shares stood at 354p.

Quintus wrote "the shares will go to a fever."

A modicum of agreement at the Opec talks stimulated some bargain hunting in the oil share market. British Petroleum, at 488p, and Shell, at 648p, both advanced 15p, while Lamp rose 10 to 325p and Enterprise 6 to 182p.

Gold shares started on a dull note, but prices finished off the bottom as bullion managed a small rally, finally \$1.75 better at \$309.

### WORLD MARKETS

AMSTERDAM	151.90 + 0.80
BRUSSELS	158.30 + 0.14
FRANKFURT	1,107.90 + 4.60
GENEVA	1,185.67 + 8.74
HONGKONG	182.40 + 0.10
PARIS	126.10 + 1.70
SYDNEY	11,542.60 + 29.08
TOKYO	420.10 + 0.20

### U.S. RATES

Federal funds	5.75% (p.c.)
Treasury bills	7.75% (p.c.)
Long bonds	11.50% (p.c.)
Short bonds	11.50% (p.c.)

### FT-ACTUARIES INDICES

General Group	507.87 (+6.91)
Life	509.46 (+8.64)
Non-life	509.74 (+6.91)

## Closure move by Tomatin Distillers

By JOHN PETTY

TOMATIN DISTILLERS yesterday called a special meeting for January 14 to propose voluntary winding up with little prospect of any distribution to shareholders.

It follows five years of losses, with no improvement in sight. The shares, 54p earlier this year, were last week suspended at 18p.

It was the first major crash in the industry for many years, but Tomatin is far from typical to the trade. It was basically a supplier to other distillers who used Tomatin malt in their own blends.

So the recession hit Tomatin hardest. Other independent distillers used more of their own malt or did swaps with companies which had well-known brands on the market.

A single blend may contain up to 35 or even 40 different whiskies, so inter-company trading is widespread.

The company's distillery at Tomatin, in the Highlands, is one of the biggest. It could produce more than 12 million litres of alcohol a year but has been operating at only 13 p.c. of capacity.

Although many distillers see signs of pick-up in demand there is no prospect of them again becoming big buyers from Tomatin, Chairman Anthony de Boer said the Tomatin outlook for 1985 was for "serious

difficulties and further substantial losses."

A statement said the position had "continued to deteriorate significantly." Attempts to find new capital or an outright buyer had been made over the past year with no success. There was an alternative to voluntary liquidation.

Heineken, the Netherlands' largest brewer, rescued Tomatin in 1981 by taking a 20 p.c. stake when the share price was 115p, but to the surprise of the drinks trade did not use its marketing strength to push the firm's product in the retail sector.

British & Commonwealth Shipping and its associates took part in another Tomatin rescue last year when the price was down to about 40p. But that injected £25 million compared with the £5 million which many brokers thought necessary.

B & C had an arrangement by which it would eventually have held more than 28 p.c.

Tomatin is expected to lose £2 million this year, following £1.48 million last year, £2 million in 1982, £2.32 million in 1981 and £1.36 million in 1980. Its last pre-tax profit was a mere £14,000 in 1977.

Tomatin has held 40 p.c. of a private company, Findhorn Finance. Findhorn bought substantial amounts of whisky from Tomatin each year, selling it back several years later for maturity.

## U.S. trade deficit doubles on the year

By JAMES SRODES in Washington

WALL STREET'S thinly-attended stock markets ignored fresh evidence of a rebounding economy and focused on interest rate fears instead. Share prices fell slightly to \$13.3 billion while imports jumped to \$15.5 billion.

The Federal Reserve complicated matters both by delaying its regular Thursday money supply report until after the market closed yesterday and by saying out of money market intervention after having been an active supplier of liquidity earlier in the week.

The absence of the central bank meant that the federal funds rate on reserves which had been 7.5 p.c. on Monday rose to more than 8 p.c. by Tuesday.

What this means is that the 11 months of 1984 now exceed \$115.45 billion compared with \$57.25 billion in 1983.

While the government's composite index of leading economic indicators reportedly showed a sharp rebound in November, the more disturbing news is that America's trade deficit for this year will exceed \$120 billion, or roughly twice the 1983 trade account loss.

The Commerce Department said the American merchandise trade deficit widened in November to a seasonally adjusted \$9.84 billion. This compares with \$9 billion and \$12.6 billion in losses run by the account in October and September respectively.

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### SATURDAY COMMENT

THE YEAR 1984 was a good one in the Western world if the definition simply means there were more winners than losers. All the Western economies grew faster than was expected a year ago.

The United States grew by 6 p.c. against a typical forecast of 3.5 p.c. Japan grew almost twice as fast as the 5 p.c. forecast and Western Europe grew by 2.2-5 p.c. against a forecast of 1.75 p.c. The average rate of inflation continued to slow slightly to about 5 p.c. a year instead of picking up slightly as was widely expected.

The achievement came without any special stimulus from interest rates. American prime rates went up from 11 p.c. a year ago to a peak of 13 p.c. between June and September before coming back down again to 10 p.c. United Kingdom base rates followed a similar pattern up from 9 p.c. a year ago to a peak of 12 1/2 p.c. in the summer and back to yesterday's 9 1/2 p.c.

Savings ratios which financed the increased spending in the early part of the recovery continued to come down last year, but nothing like enough to finance the faster economic growth. Public sector spending also took a back seat in favour of increased private sector capital investment in most of the industrial economies and capital investment was financed largely by a recovery in trading profits.

The widespread recovery in business profits was partly the result of moderate wage settlements in the new climate of realism created by continuing high unemployment. But it also seems as if the rapid introduction of new technology has made new investment extra profitable.

Faster growth throughout the industrial economies last year also came from the unexpected weakness of raw material prices. They fell back again by about 10 p.c. after recovering from their low point in 1983. Although official oil

prices have shown little change, spot prices have fallen and the fear of a third oil crisis has faded beyond the foreseeable future.

There is no straightforward lesson to be learned from all this. The fastest growth rates have been in the United States, which has allowed its public sector overspending to grow at a time when the other leading industrial economies have been trying to reduce their deficits. The resulting reduction of the American economy has been a major factor in helping other countries grow through increased exports to the United States.

In spite of such apparently dangerous behaviour the United States has been able to finance both its internal budget deficit and its growing balance of payments deficit by attracting inflows of capital, and the influx has been strong enough to force the dollar sharply higher on the foreign exchanges.

It edged still higher again yesterday to another 11-year peak and now stands 44.8 p.c. above its 1973 value after slipping below 90 p.c. in 1978.

The strength of the dollar is in fact the wonder of the age. For the past two years the overwhelming majority of forecasters have been predicting an imminent and sharp decline in the relative value

of the dollar. It has defied all the predictions, and even the recent fall in American interest rates has not affected it.

For the time being the dollar reflects the abundance of confidence in the United States economy and its prospects, which is in marked contrast to the excessive gloom projected by President Carter's policies.

The dollar's strength is reflected in the weakness of sterling, which touched another all-time low yesterday morning before staging a modest rally based on better news from the oil exporters' meeting in Geneva.

Even that was not enough to stop it recording an all-time low for the close of business at \$1.1635 in London last night, and the trade-weighted average value at 75.2 p.c. is only 0.5 above the trading low earlier this month.

Yesterday saw the first real signs of concern about sterling's weakness expressed in the City and the first hint that a re-run of events in the summer which led to base rates being forced sharply higher could be in the making.

Until now Mr Lawson, Chancellor, has been able to trade on his success in forecasting faster economic growth than any of his City

critics and has been able to press for still lower interest rates and sustained economic growth regardless of the downward drift in sterling.

So far businessmen and investors prefer the Chancellor's optimism to the critics' doubts. Yesterday, not for the first time, the record low for sterling coincided with a record high for shares. Investors reckon, consciously or unconsciously, that we are at that charmed stage of every economic cycle when a depreciating currency creates a positive boost for exports, output, sales and profits without too much risk of triggering inflationary pressures.

Even the economists who have noted that average pay settlements look like creeping up again in 1985 do not think they pose much threat of inflation during the next 12 months. Most forecasts for inflation expect an upturn, but most forecasters predict that prices will rise no more than 5.5 to 6 p.c. in 1985 itself.

The Chancellor is, of course, taking a calculated risk that the United States economy will slow down without triggering a dollar crisis or reversing the stimulus the American boom has given to other economies. Most forecasters appear to agree with him there.

He is also gambling that the oil exporters will patch up an agreement which will keep oil revenues, converted into sterling, high enough to finance the tax cuts he plans to introduce on March 19.

A surge in the dollar or too sharp a slump would be equally bad for Britain. And a \$5 fall in oil prices would require the pound to fall to par with the dollar to maintain Government revenues sufficient to finance the tax cuts, with the obvious risks of refuelling inflation in the process. But the majority view is that Mr Lawson will probably get away with it.

INTERNATIONAL banks have met the end-year deadline for commitments to the crucial Argentine debt deal negotiated earlier this month.

This means that Argentina now certain to receive the blessing of the International Monetary Fund for what is seen by international bankers as the most important economic package yet agreed.

William Rhodes, a senior vice-president of Citibank and a key figure in negotiations between the banks and Argentina, said in New York yesterday that commitments to the Argentine package had reached 90 p.c. of the full amount required, thus meeting IMF insistence on a "critical mass" of bank money.

package can be assessed. The British National Oil Corporation has already served warning that it will have little option but to cut prices in the New Year unless there is a big recovery in spot prices.

The main stumbling block in the way of a full Opec agreement yesterday was the gulf between Nigeria and other states, led by Saudi Arabia over narrowing the \$5 a barrel gap between heavy and light oils.

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## Milling exchange rates defy the law of gravity

prices have shown little change, spot prices have fallen and the fear of a third oil crisis has faded beyond the foreseeable future.

There is no straightforward lesson to be learned from all this. The fastest growth rates have been in the United States, which has allowed its public sector overspending to grow at a time when the other leading industrial economies have been trying to reduce their deficits. The resulting reduction of the American economy has been a major factor in helping other countries grow through increased exports to the United States.

In spite of such apparently dangerous behaviour the United States has been able to finance both its internal budget deficit and its growing balance of payments deficit by attracting inflows of capital, and the influx has been strong enough to force the dollar sharply higher on the foreign exchanges.

It edged still higher again yesterday to another 11-year peak and now stands 44.8 p.c. above its 1973 value after slipping below 90 p.c. in 1978.

The strength of the dollar is in fact the wonder of the age. For the past two years the overwhelming majority of forecasters have been predicting an imminent and sharp decline in the relative value

of the dollar. It has defied all the predictions, and even the recent fall in American interest rates has not affected it.

For the time being the dollar reflects the abundance of confidence in the United States economy and its prospects, which is in marked contrast to the excessive gloom projected by President Carter's policies.

The dollar's strength is reflected in the weakness of sterling, which touched another all-time low yesterday morning before staging a modest rally based on better news from the oil exporters' meeting in Geneva.

Even that was not enough to stop it recording an all-time low for the close of business at \$1.1635 in London last night, and the trade-weighted average value at 75.2 p.c. is only 0.5 above the trading low earlier this month.

Yesterday saw the first real signs of concern about sterling's weakness expressed in the City and the first hint that a re-run of events in the summer which led to base rates being forced sharply higher could be in the making.

Until now Mr Lawson, Chancellor, has been able to trade on his success in forecasting faster economic growth than any of his City

critics and has been able to press for still lower interest rates and sustained economic growth regardless of the downward drift in sterling.

So far businessmen and investors prefer the Chancellor's optimism to the critics' doubts. Yesterday, not for the first time, the record low for sterling coincided with a record high for shares. Investors reckon, consciously or unconsciously, that we are at that charmed stage of every economic cycle when a depreciating currency creates a positive boost for exports, output, sales and profits without too much risk of triggering inflationary pressures.

Even the economists who have noted that average pay settlements look like creeping up again in 1985 do not think they pose much threat of inflation during the next 12 months. Most forecasts for inflation expect an upturn, but most forecasters predict that prices will rise no more than 5.5 to 6 p.c. in 1985 itself.

The Chancellor is, of course, taking a calculated risk that the United States economy will slow down without triggering a dollar crisis or reversing the stimulus the American boom has given to other economies. Most forecasters appear to agree with him there.

He is also gambling that the oil exporters will patch up an agreement which will keep oil revenues, converted into sterling, high enough to finance the tax cuts he plans to introduce on March 19.

A surge in the dollar or too sharp a slump would be equally bad for Britain. And a \$5 fall in oil prices would require the pound to fall to par with the dollar to maintain Government revenues sufficient to finance the tax cuts, with the obvious risks of refuelling inflation in the process. But the majority view is that Mr Lawson will probably get away with it.

INTERNATIONAL banks have met the end-year deadline for commitments to the crucial Argentine debt deal negotiated earlier this month.

This means that Argentina now certain to receive the blessing of the International Monetary Fund for what is seen by international bankers as the most important economic package yet agreed.

William Rhodes, a senior vice-president of Citibank and a key figure in negotiations between the banks and Argentina, said in New York yesterday that commitments to the Argentine package had reached 90 p.c. of the full amount required, thus meeting IMF insistence on a "critical mass" of bank money.

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But traders maintained that Opec ministers were still failing to recognise that prices need to fall by \$1.50 to \$2 a barrel to restore stability to a market with a surplus of oil.

Britain is continuing to sit on the sidelines until the full Opec

## In Monday's City Pages

NEW YEAR share tips are as much a tradition of the season as first footings. In Monday's City Pages, David Brewster offers his selections for 1985 which he believes will continue to outperform the market.

Also in Monday's City Pages Colin Campbell reviews his mining portfolio of 1984 and selects five new picks for 1985.

Business coming up for sale: market leader, famous name, price up to £500 million, with strings. Christopher Fildes names it in his Lombard Street column.

In Economic Commentary Frances Williams "softenomics" — the shape of things to come?

IBM's bottom-of-the-range computer PCjr looked set to be a disaster but by price cutting and massive marketing the giant company has got it selling. Michael Becker examines the implications for customers and the industry.

Our man in Washington, Jim Srodes, talks with Thomas Robinson, an international economist with Merrill Lynch, about the state of play in world capital markets.

## Bath & Portland to hive off Meditech

BATH & Portland has agreed to hive-off its long-making body scanner company, Meditech, into a new company whose main backing will come from Gresham House.

Consolidated Goldfields, which has made an agreed £1.5 million takeover bid for Bath & Portland at the same time topping C. H. Beazer's £48 million offer, has agreed to the move.

Gresham House and other investors will subscribe £125,000 for an 85 p.c. equity stake in the business to be renamed Meditech Engineering. Bath & Portland will retain a 15 p.c. stake and hold 800,000 cumulative redeemable preference shares. Exact redemption terms will depend on Meditech's sales.

Consolidated Goldfields yesterday announced it had irrevocably accepted an offer of 20 p.c. for its offer for Bath & Portland. Beazer managed very few acceptances by yesterday's first closing date but with its own bid has some 22.3 p.c. of the equity. Its own offer has been extended until January 25.

## Matthew Brown shares soar

MATTHEW BROWN shares rose another 28p to 310p yesterday as his speculation mounted over the Blackburn brewer whose prospects have been enhanced by the successful takeover of Theakston and the acquisition of the Carlisle and Leeds breweries.

"We have received no approach from any quarter regarding a takeover bid," said a statement by directors.

U.S. COMMODITIES

U.S. COMMODITIES			
GOLD			
1987-2001	1988-2001	1989-2001	1990-2001
14.00	13.13-30.01	13.09-20.01	31.8-00
17.00	13.25-40	15.2-70	33.5-10
28.40	13.21-101	15.2-70	33.5-10
33.001	13.21-101	15.2-70	33.5-10
Wholesale sales: 25.50 contract			
SILVER			
1987-2001	1988-2001	1989-2001	1990-2001
12.5-1659	15.1-1659	16.1-1659	16.1-1659
12.5-1659	15.1-1659	16.1-1659	16.1-1659

Example: A policy with a basic benefit of £5,000 taken out on 1 January, 1975 will normally have attaching bonuses of £2,652.90. The 1984 annual bonus will increase this by £375, while the special bonus will add an extra £265.30. If the policy matured after 10 years in January, 1985, a terminal bonus of £2,305.24 would swell the total benefit to nearly £10,000.

## Opec deal fails to impress markets

By ROLAND GRIBBEN

OIL markets were unimpressed yesterday by the new output monitoring pact hammered out by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries as part of a package aimed at avoiding a collapse in prices.

Crude oil prices dropped further in spot market trading in Europe and the United States while Opec ministers continued talks in Geneva to bridge differences over modest price changes.

North Sea Brent oil was being quoted at a discount of \$2.05 a barrel on its official price of \$28.65 in European trading while Saudi Arabian light, the Opec marker, stood at \$28 a barrel, against a contract level of \$29.

Brent oil was quoted at \$26.45 for loading next month, a drop of 50 cents over the week.

Prices in New York for crude and petroleum products were lower as oil analysts joined in the sceptical response to the Opec manoeuvres. Criticism centred on the absence of sanctions against states continuing to cheat on quotas once the new policing system came into force.

But traders maintained that Opec ministers were still failing to recognise that prices need to fall by \$1.50 to \$2 a barrel to restore stability to a market with a surplus of oil.

Britain is continuing to sit on the sidelines until the full Opec

### By Clifford German

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## FAMILY MONEY-GO-ROUND

### Expert advice for 1985...

Brian Tora, Touche Renmant  
Financial Management.

AS we leave 1984 with the United Kingdom stock market at a record high level, and with the initial euphoria that surrounded British Telecom dying away, the early part of 1985 may have something of a hang-over quality to it.  
I am not pessimistic for the UK market, and think that fundamentals will support current levels even if we get off to a bumpy start. The outlook for gilt edged looks quite cheerful, and base rates should fall by at least a further 1 p.c.  
We are rather less enthusiastic about the United States where the budget deficit remains a major problem and economic growth has slowed considerably. In 1985 I feel inclined to leave the U.S. out of our list of recommendations, as I would Japan despite its importance in world market terms.  
Hongkong has been very much in the news, and the mar-

We asked five experts in managing other investors' money what they recommend for 1985. Making profits would be too easy if they all agreed, but there is a pattern of conformity in their views.

ket seems to have recovered its poise. Share prices are likely to remain volatile.

The private investor should look at those unit trusts invested in the U.K. market with an above average yield and with some fixed interest exposure, such as our own Income Growth Trust. A Hongkong unit trust, such as Gartmore, could also be included, but perhaps with rather less money to reflect the higher risk. A resource accented unit trust could also be included. I favour Rothschild's with its very successful record for commodity management.

Finally, I think Europe's stock markets should not be overlooked as values on many of the houses particularly Scandinavia and Switzerland look cheap by world standards, whilst currency adjustments could enhance the return to the United Kingdom investor. Save & Prosper and GT both run successful, broadly based, European unit trusts.

Graham Mann, Grieverson

Grant & Co., Stockbrokers

The biggest question of 1985 still concerns the future of the United States economy. The apparently insoluble budget problem is likely to remain a negative influence, producing as it does high interest rates and an overvalued dollar.

United Kingdom equities are at an absolute high and could be a little vulnerable in the short run, but basic values remain sound. Our bias remains towards quality growth stocks, particularly those linked to the consumer.

We would commit about half of portfolios to good quality United Kingdom equities. Japan's market seems less worried about United States developments than perhaps should be the case. The economic numbers remain impressive but they are expected to turn down in the second half of 1985, while the level of the market already reflects a continuation of strong growth. Japan remains the world's most efficient major economy and the currency still promises profits against sterling, but we would reduce portfolio weighting to no more than 10 p.c.

Europe's economies have recovered more slowly from the recession but look set to achieve very acceptable growth in 1985. We would commit up to 20 p.c. of portfolios to Europe, through a successful unit trust.

Despite our hesitant comments about the United States, the market is not expensive, and we would commit about 10 p.c. of portfolios there. The balance of about 10 p.c. we would hold on deposit to react to opportunities such as TSB and British Airways.

Richard Bernays, Mercury  
Fund Managers and Warburg  
Investment Management.

THE dull market in the United States during the past year has left interesting opportunities for 1985. The stock market continues to look undervalued.

We believe that Japan will continue in the vanguard of the technological revolution and the fundamental attractions of Japanese industry remain unchanged.

Perhaps the major determining factor for the beginning of next year will be the outlook for the level of domestic consumer expenditure. There is evidence of slowing export growth and also fierce competition in areas such as semi-conductors. We therefore approach 1985 with a certain amount of caution, and would expect to see a correction after the current end-of-year run. Later the Japanese market could advance to new highs.

The United Kingdom stock market has now had its third consecutive year of substantial gains and further progress can be expected next year. The relative weakness of sterling should continue to benefit profits. Europe's stock markets look well set to break new ground in 1985.

There is a lot to be said in favour of the private investor selecting a general fund with wide discretion as to its areas of investment—an example of such a fund in our stable would be the Mercury International Fund.

A more specific investment suggestion would be the Mercury European Fund as we feel that the prospects for the European markets in 1985 are particularly good.

Glynne Clay, Richard

Longstaff Unit Trust

Portfolio Management.

1984 was an excellent year for the United Kingdom stock market and it is hard to imagine the same dynamic performance in 1985, even if one does substitute British Aerospace and TSB for British Telecom.

Undoubtedly many excellent profit figures are still to come through, benefiting from the weak Sterling rate, but a pause for breath in the New Year will be no surprise. Specifically, most recovery funds have recovered and most growth stocks grown, so it may be safer to turn to income and asset funds like Henderson's, or one of the specialist funds.

The United States does, at last, seem to be taking a hard look at itself and its monetary policies, although by the per-

formance of Wall Street, the Americans themselves cannot yet see the wood for the trees. A fund with a high yield, the Save & Prosper's American Income & Growth, with a heavy leaning towards convertible loan stocks, whilst at the other end of the spectrum is the G.T. Technology & Growth, a poor performer in 1984, with a minimum return of income. United States high-tech may be 1985's high flyer.

Japan looks to us to be a good long term banker, with no inflation to speak of and a currency advantage (tr the new Charterhouse J. Rothschild Japan Fund based in Bermuda) but, like the United Kingdom, not immediately cheap. On the other hand, European funds are on very low ratings by our standards—Mercury's European Fund run by Consuelo Brooke looks excellent value.

And a good all round investment? The Perpetual International Emerging Companies Fund.

John Savage, Hoare Govett

Unit Trust Advisory Service.

REFLECTING on 1984 is a fairly pleasant task. The F.T. All-Share Index has gained 23 p.c. and Japan, currency p.c. and Japan, currency adjusted, has made the U.K. investor 38 p.c. Wall Street has barely moved, the dollar gained a further 16 p.c. against sterling.

Can equity markets in 1985 be so kind? I think not, although returns could still compare favourably with the domestic inflation rate of around 5 p.c.

Investors have responded favourably to the recent cuts in United States money rates. The "bullish" view is that the retrenchment process is over and that further monetary easing is inevitable.

We would not be so sure. The President is not going to find it easy to solve the budget deficit problem and we do not see the Fed risking a dollar weakness with the United States external trade account so chronically out of balance.

We think it may be closer to the middle of 1985 before a convincing and meaningful credit easing is initiated. In the meantime the now accepted low rates of inflation in the major economies and overall economic progress may not be sufficient to provide equity investors with renewed enthusiasm.

Against this background we would recommend a defensive stance in the very short term, income producing unit trusts, even for "growth" investors, such as Save & Prosper High Return, Montagu United States Special Income and Govett Pacific Income could well prove attractive in the months ahead.



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# FAMILY MONEY-GO-ROUND

## CHECKING FINANCIAL HEALTH

HAVING survived Christmas, the turkey, and the relatives, it is time to get down to the serious business—how to make the same amount of money stretch a lot further in 1985 than it did in 1984.

This is not a get-rich-quick guide as the chances are that you will never fashion a fortune if you have to read about how to do it. Rather it is a checklist for those savers or investors who resent paying any more than is absolutely necessary and who get particular enjoyment from being able to beat the system, legally of course.

All it requires is a little bit of financial reorganisation. And what better time to do it? Too much eating, too much merry-making, and the nagging conscience is already beginning to flash red warning lights. Fortunately, everybody knows logging is dangerous, but running a quick financial health checklist could be just the answer.

Think about it: the exercise should be highly profitable, does not require anything like the same amount of physical effort and even better, you have a number of ready-made New Year's resolutions.

You will not make enough to keep you in champagne for the next 12 months, but even if you follow some of the tips given below you should be able to afford at least a bottle or two and enjoy the drinking even more with the knowledge that the champagne has cost you nothing.

1—Top of your New Year's bargain shopping list could be a new bank manager, particularly if you bank at Barclays, Natwest or Lloyds. Only last month, the Midland did do the decent thing and abolished all charges for those who keep in credit.

Nicely timed for Christmas it

### RESOLUTIONS

Niall Sweeney suggests some New Year resolutions which could prove profitable.

may well have been, but a philanthropic gesture it was certainly not; the Midland wants new customers. Of course, you may be a customer of the Yorkshire Bank, Williams & Glyn's, or the Co-op and so already enjoy free banking. But if you are one of the 50 p.c. of clearing bank customers who currently pay charges, this could be a most propitious switch, assuming that you can actually keep in credit.

The deciding factor is how much you value your present bank manager. Ask yourself how much you think he is worth the next time you have to pay bank charges.

2—Talking of bank accounts, make sure you keep your TSB account open, whatever you do. We already know that customers who had an account on December 17 will receive preferential treatment when the shares are offered to the public.

Even if you do not have an account there yourself, someone in the family may still have an account languishing somewhere with a princely sum of at least five shillings to the good. It will take some tracking down, but the effort could make you some money. Don't wait until the prospectus has been issued—it will be too late then.

3—If you have a mortgage,

to see that the mortgage rate has fallen by about one percentage point or so. It is at times like this that many repayment mortgage borrowers try to maintain their payments at the higher level so as to reduce the term. Landable as this might be, it is wrong.

You should be reducing the standing order payment and investing the balance on a monthly basis into a subscription account. Then just before the building society's accounting year-end, withdraw all the money from the subscription account, together with the accumulated interest, and make a once-off payment against your mortgage.

It is a bit more fiddly, but more effective as a means of reducing the mortgage term. 4—While on the subject of mortgages, now is the time to take advantage of the societies' enhancement at being flush with funds but with out a borrower in sight. Differential mortgage rates are being swiftly eroded once again, and you should be able to get loans for purposes other than house purchase and improvement (although not necessarily the mortgage interest relief as well).

So if you were caught out by the huge differentials a few months ago when money was tight, now is the time to consider a remortgage with another society or one of the banks. Likewise, if you want a loan for a car or the school fees, make the building society manager your first port of call. The rate is a lot cheaper than can be obtained elsewhere and you can have a much longer term which reduces the monthly repayments significantly.

5—Have you noticed how societies keep launching new accounts? So all the money you invested a few months ago in the best account at the time is

no longer receiving the highest rate of interest? Super-savers don't fall for that one—you need to watch the rates like a hawk and don't commit your money for too long a period.

6—For the self-employed or those with any non-pensionable earnings, a good buy—courtesy of the taxman—could be the personal computer you have always promised yourself.

As a "plant and machinery" item, it will qualify for 75 p.c. capital allowances, but only if you buy it before April 1. After that the rate of allowance reduces to 50 p.c.

7—Whatever the Chancellor decides to do about the tax relief on pensions, the one certainty is that they are not going to be extended. In spite of all the 'hype', a pension contribution before the Budget will be a good buy.

8—The January sales have started early this year and the bargain hunters are already out in force. But how do you know whether you are getting the best price at any other time of the year? What you do is you ring Comp-U-card (0735 681911), which is basically a computerised shopping service by telephone. I've tried it and friends have tried it, and it seems to work.

The service costs £20 a year, but you could more than make that up in the discounts received during the year, and there is currently a special three month free introductory period.

9—In the unit trust sector, the Target Professional Fund must represent a bargain buy for those who can invest a minimum of £1,500. The initial charge is a modest 2½ p.c. but the Target group as a whole offers 4 p.c. switching discount. Sch... don't tell anyone else.

10—Finally, make sure you check your £1 notes. Have you got the last one?

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Through the Fund, which is listed on The Stock Exchange, you can invest in a wide range of international equity, currency and specialist funds, which together form the basis for a diversified international portfolio.

The Daily Telegraph—'A new type of capital investment' and 'A top drawer unit trust'

The Fund allows you to spread your capital across whatever mix of funds suits your investment aims and reflects your view of current economic conditions.

Most importantly, the Fund also allows you to switch your capital between funds free of the following charges:

- \* Stamp duty
- \* Dealing charges
- \* UK capital gains tax



### What charges are involved?

Fund managers normally pay a fixed commission to the adviser when an investment is made; this sum is rebated from the initial charge.

In the case of the Capital Strategy Fund, however, there is no fixed 'front-end' commission. This leaves you, the investor, free to negotiate commission and management charges directly with your adviser.

In another break with tradition, Shares in the Fund are traded at a single price based on net asset value.

The Times—'The nearest thing to a 'no load' fund with no initial charges'

The annual management charge made to investors by Gartmore is a fee of 0.75% of the amount invested. (Minimum initial subscription of £20,000 or the equivalent in any freely convertible currency).

Dealing is conducted daily. Applications, conversions and redemptions are speedily and simply administered, with a minimum of paperwork.

The Capital Strategy Fund is managed by Gartmore Fund Managers International Ltd, a member of the Gartmore Group which manages funds in excess of £2.2 billion. To find out more about the Fund, please consult your adviser. Alternatively, complete the coupon or telephone Neil Millward on 0534-27301 or telex on 4192030 GARTJYJ giving the name of your adviser if you have one. We'll send you a Prospectus on the basis of which alone applications can be made.

### Gartmore

#### CAPITAL STRATEGY FUND LIMITED

Please send me the Prospectus for the above Fund.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Gartmore Fund Managers International Ltd, 6 Caledonia Place, St Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands.

مركز التمويل

## NEW YEAR OFFER FROM M&G

EXTRA UNITS UP TO 5TH APRIL

## M&G RECOVERY FUND

"M&G RECOVERY IS PROBABLY THE MOST SUCCESSFUL UNIT TRUST EVER LAUNCHED"

The Fund has a speculative policy of buying shares of companies that have fallen on hard times, and is designed to produce long-term capital growth.

The comparative performance table demonstrates just how well it has achieved its aim, although past performance is no guarantee for the future.

Unit trusts are for long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice. This is because the price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

M&G now offer an extra allocation of units in Recovery Fund—a unit trust with an outstanding record.

On 19th December 1984 the estimated gross current yield was 3.69% at an offered price for Accumulation units of 280.0p. Prices and yields appear daily in the FT. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offered price and an annual charge of a maximum of 1% of the Fund's value—currently 2½%—plus VAT is deducted from gross income. Distributions for income units are paid net of basic rate tax on 20th February and 20th August and are reinvested for Accumulation units to increase their value. The next distribution date for new investors will be 20th August 1985. You can buy or sell units on any business day and contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement 2 or 3 weeks later. Remuneration is payable to accredited agents at rates available on request. Trustee: Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited. The fund is a wider-range investment and is authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

M&G Securities Limited, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ. Telephone: 01-626 4588.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE £10,000 invested at the launch of M&G Recovery Fund compared with the FT, the Retail Price Index and an extra-interest account in a Building Society offering 1½% above the average yearly rate.

Year to 31st Dec.	M&G Recovery Fund	FT Index	All Share Index	Retail Price Index	Building Society
23 May 69	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1969	11,360	9,807	9,928	10,019	10,373
1970	11,760	8,570	9,536	11,020	11,058
1971	19,200	12,110	13,773	12,012	11,789
1972	26,640	13,006	13,983	12,930	12,568
1973	22,720	9,212	11,249	14,300	13,604
1974	15,120	4,637	5,232	17,041	14,856
1975	26,400	11,121	12,934	21,283	16,178
1976	27,200	10,835	12,823	24,490	17,569
1977	59,600	15,680	19,127	27,464	19,094
1978	74,240	15,688	20,298	29,781	20,610
1979	89,200	14,496	22,000	34,398	22,714
1980	102,560	17,287	26,967	40,175	25,521
1981	120,000	20,209	32,420	45,015	28,287
1982	114,240	23,539	41,166	47,449	31,196
1983	162,720	31,638	52,337	49,971	33,822
19 Dec 84	207,440	39,652	67,099	52,405	36,769

NOTES: Figures for M&G Recovery, the FT, the Retail Price Index and the Building Society include reinvested net income. Figures for M&G Recovery show the realisation values.

### SPECIAL OFFER CLOSES 5th APRIL

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ. All applications received by 5th April, 1985, will be given an extra 1% allocation of units (minimum £1,000). This will be increased to 2% for applications of £10,000 or more.

DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY.

(A contract note will be sent to you stating exactly how much you owe and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly.)

PLEASE INVEST (Min. £1,000) £

IN ACCUMULATION 'INCOME' Units (delete as applicable or Accumulation units will be issued) at the price ruling on receipt of this application in The M&G Recovery Fund.

POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_

REF 395314

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print name in English No. 9074 (see full name above). This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

## £20 A MONTH CAN ACCUMULATE A LOT OF MONEY

If you had chosen fifteen years ago to save £20 a month in a building society, and had left the interest to accumulate, by 1st October 1984 your total outlay of £3,600 would have built up to £7,184. On the other hand, if you had chosen to save the same amount each month in one of our larger unit trusts, M&G SECOND General Trust Fund, you would have built up an investment worth £14,828, an extra £7,644.

You can start an M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan with as little as £20. You need not subscribe regularly but we strongly recommend that you do so, by completing the Bankers Order form. By saving a regular amount you make fluctuations in the stockmarket work to your advantage because more units are bought when their price is low than when it is high.

Unit trusts are an excellent method of investing in the various stockmarkets of the world, and are ideal for regular investment over the longer term. They are not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Your Savings Plan subscriptions go into Accumulation units of the Fund you choose and income is reinvested automatically after basic-rate tax. Further details of the Funds and

### WHAT YOU COULD HAVE ACCUMULATED FOR £20 A MONTH BY 1st OCTOBER, 1984

	5 YEARS 1969-1974	10 YEARS 1969-1974	15 YEARS 1969-1974
Amount paid in	£200	£2,400	£3,600
M&G Dividend	2,170	7,298	15,821
M&G Recovery	1,815	8,356	21,846
M&G SECOND	1,985	7,132	14,828
FT Industrial Ordinary Index	2,039	5,923	10,364
Building Society Savings Account	1,504	3,845	7,184

Source: Planned Savings. All performance figures include income reinvested net of basic rate tax. The figures for the M&G Funds are 'bid' prices. You should remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

the rules of the plan are available on request. All the Funds are wider-range securities and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

The only charges are those you normally pay with unit trusts—5% included in the initial price of units and up to 1% annually (currently limited to 3%) for management.

There are no extra charges for this Savings Plan.

You can vary the amount you pay and you are free to cash in your accumulated investment, or part of it, at any time without penalty. The securities in a unit trust are held in custody by the Trustee (one of the major banks). You can follow the progress of your plan by looking up the price of units and the current yield in the Financial Times or other leading newspapers. You buy units at the 'offer' price and sell at the 'bid' price.

### SAVINGS PLANS FOR CHILDREN

The minimum age for the Unit Trust Savings Plan is 14, but accounts for younger children can be opened in the name of an adult and designated with the child's full name.

### NO EXTRA CHARGES

I WISH TO SUBSCRIBE £ (min £20) each month to the M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan and I enclose a cheque (made payable to M&G Securities Limited) for my first subscription of £ (you may wish to start your plan with a lump sum).

I wish my subscriptions to be invested in the Fund circled.

AMERICAN & GEN. INTERNATIONAL  
AUSTRALASIAN JAPAN & GEN.  
COMPOUND GROWTH MIDLAND  
DIVIDEND RECOVERY  
GENERAL SECOND  
GOLD SMALLER COs

BANKERS ORDER DO NOT DETACH FROM ENROLLMENT FORM

10 BANK LIMITED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay to National Westminster Bank PLC, 191 Moorgate Street, London EC2M 6UN, Account No. 5573270 for the credit of M&G Securities Limited (SUNING PLAN ACCOUNT), naming

Account No. (LEAVE BLANK) \_\_\_\_\_ the sum of £ ( ) on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_ and continue to pay that amount on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of each month/quarter until further order in writing from me, and debit my account with you from time to time with such

AMOUNT (SIGNED) \_\_\_\_\_ M&G SECURITIES LIMITED

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Agent No. 9074. This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

TO: M&G SECURITIES LTD, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ

If no Fund is circled your plan will be linked to M&G SECOND.

The price will be the best available at the time of the plan.

If the Savings Plan account is being opened for the benefit of a child, please fill in the full name of the child.

I understand that further subscriptions can be made at any time (minimum £20) and that I can realise my holding on any business day without penalty at the bid price ruling.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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# TO PEPE

SPAIN'S SHERRY

GONZALEZ BYASS

**BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, IN MEMORIAM AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Announcements can be received by telephone between 9.00 a.m. and 5.45 p.m. Monday to Friday, on Saturday between 9.00 a.m. and 12 noon. Forthcoming marriages, wedding notices, etc., on Court Page 28 a time.

Court Page announcements cannot be accepted by telephone.

**BIRTHS**

**BOYERMAN**—On Dec. 22, at St. Mary's Hospital, London, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Boyerman, a son, James John Boyerman, 10.5 lb, 54 in. long.

**COOPER**—On Dec. 22, at St. Mary's Hospital, London, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Cooper, a son, James John Cooper, 10.5 lb, 54 in. long.

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# GADDAFI SENDS KORAN TO Dr RUNCIE

By JAMES MACMANUS Diplomatic Staff

**THE Church of England envoy, Mr Terry Waite, reported to the Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday on his mission to Libya to free four detained Britons.**

Mr Waite, who returned from Tripoli on Thursday night, spent several hours with Dr Runcie at Canterbury Cathedral.

As they strolled in the cathedral grounds Mr Waite gave the Archbishop a gift from Col. Gaddafi—an English-language version of the Koran.

Inside the holy book of the Islamic faith the Libyan leader had written: "With my greetings and congratulations for the New Year. Hoping it will be a year of blessing and peace for humanity."

Dr Runcie said afterwards: "I accept this gift as a welcome sign of the religious character of the mission on which I sent Terry Waite."

"I receive it with some words from the Koran: 'It is not God's way to force you; rather, he is disappointed nor to force your faith; rather, for God is gentle towards mankind and merciful'."

But Dr Runcie stressed that the talks aimed at freeing the four Britons were still "at a delicate stage."

Mr Waite, who is hoping for a few days' rest with his family, said he hoped to see the families of the detained men before he returned to Libya in ten days' time.

The Libyan government has given the Archbishop's special envoy a return ticket to Tripoli so that he can attend the meeting of the People's Congress in January at which Col. Gaddafi's "recommendation" for the release of the detainees will be discussed.

**Help for students**

The Archbishop is backing Mr Waite's suggestion that British Churches set up a telephone "help" service for Libyans in Britain worried about intimidation.

Dr Runcie said: "Mr Waite told Col. Gaddafi that the churches would be ready to provide support and advice to Libyans living in this country who felt apprehensive or anxious."

**Libyans wait**

There is no sign yet of a trial date for the Libyans held in Britain on explosives charges. Four Libyan students are due to face charges in Manchester early in the New Year in connection with bomb attacks against Libya exiles in the city last March.

They are Khalid Mansour, 22; Taher Abouzou, 22; Mohammed Shlebak, 23; and a fourth, 25, of whom were arrested on March 11 this year.

The fourth Libyan facing charges in Manchester is Abdel As-Salam Abu Shanayd who was arrested in Abu Dhabi.

No date has yet been set for the trial.

In London, another Libyan student, Ali Muebah, who was arrested last March is also awaiting trial.

# EEC settles steel row over U.S. import curb

**THE EUROPEAN Community settled a long-running row with America last night over U.S. import curbs on community steel pipes and tubes.**

A Community Commission spokesman announced this afternoon that the scheme under which the community's share of the American pipe and tubes market from Jan. 1, 1985, will be limited to 14.6 per cent of the total.

France held up community agreement on the deal while it sought clarification that the French firm Vallourec, which makes gas pipeline equipment, would benefit from an exemption clause.

The sticking point had been American insistence that exemptions should be granted only in cases of contracts to fill orders which could not be met by domestic U.S. suppliers.

Greece and Italy voted against the deal, but their opposition was not sufficient to block the agreement.

Without agreement America would have introduced even stricter curbs from Jan. 1, with the threat of possible retaliation.

**SOLUTION No. 18,335**

1. In all sizes 36 to 54"

2. In all sizes 36 to 54"

3. In all sizes 36 to 54"

**QUICK CROSSWORD**

8 Down: 12 Impudence, 13 Likewit, 14 Engrave, 15 Nothing, 16 Anger, 17 Bill, 18 Flat pieces of, 19 Cake decoration, 20 Condensed vapour, 21 Skated.

8 Across: 1 Type of Burgundy, 2 Separate, 3 Aureole.

**DOWN**

1 Cat in two, 2 Coming, 3 The Emperor I, 4 and across heard, 5 Anger, 6 Scenery of combat, 7 Precious stone, 8 Cat, 9 Light beer, 10 Put on show, 11 Zest, 12 Old.

**For a change on Sunday try your skill with THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH prize crossword.**



# Landslide

By DAVID GRAVES

**Continued from Page One**

India, the first results were announced.

The national turnout on Monday was estimated at 80 per cent, and so coupled with Tuesday's voting figure of 55 per cent, election commission officials said that as many as 100 million people had voted.

At the last election in 1980 the turnout was about 50 per cent.

Polling in eight constituencies was postponed or countermanded while no result was announced in 27 seats in the troubled states of Assam and the Punjab to complete the 542 seats Lok Sabha, the lower house of Parliament.

A total of 375 million people were eligible to vote for 530 candidates.

Some 40,000 polling stations, manned by 21 million staff, were used along with two million ballot boxes which were taken by boat, mule, camel and helicopter across the country.

Most of the record number of candidates who contested the election were independents and more than 100 constituencies fielded 15 candidates or more.

In Delhi had the largest field with 21 candidates and a halcyon parade of a broad sheet newspaper.

**Leap from car**

It is said that Capt. Piotrowski leapt from the car while driving at 50 m.p.h.

But they stopped when Father Piotrowski started banging on the door.

The priest was taken into custody while Capt. Piotrowski went to buy off for their car at a nearby service station.

When he returned Father Piotrowski tried to escape, but Capt. Piotrowski leapt on him and clubbed him senseless. It was then that the priest pleaded for his life.

Before they reached the dam on the Vistula river where Father Piotrowski was thrown into the water, he was twice allowed to the priest to be unconscious because he was pressing with his back against the boat lid in force it open.

"Li Peksala said that each time he and Lt. Chmielowski were ordered to tighten the rope which was looped around the priest's neck and fastened to his wrists and hand knes so that he could strangle himself if he tried to move.

The kidnappers were stopped twice by routine police checks during their journey of more than 100 miles, but their car was not searched because of a social Interior Ministry pass belonging to Capt. Piotrowski.

Without the free pass the kidnappers would have been able to travel with the priest in the boot," Lt. Peksala said.

Lengthy reports of the first day of the trial were printed by the official Press and film of the four in court was shown on State television.

**Poland's unique trial—P5**

**Editorial Comment—P14**

**MORE POLES FLEE**

Twenty-three Polish passengers failed to return to the ferry Bogalin in Amsterdam last night and 12 of them asked for political asylum immediately. Over Christmas 112 Poles left another ferry in Germany—Reuter.

**FREE RIDES IN NEW YORK TO SAVE LIVES**

By Our New York Staff

In an experiment aimed at reducing drunken driving and to save lives on New York's highways, the New York State Thruway Authority has announced free travel for revelers on all forms of public transport until 8 a.m. on New Year's Day.

The offer will apply in the subway, buses, the Staten Island ferry, and even long-distance commuter trains that run all night.

Unlike Britain, public transport in New York and other major American cities runs 24 hours a day every day of the year. The anticipated cost to the city of the free ride offer is around \$330,000.

**MILLENNIUM PARTY**

The Millennium Society, an American group organising a party on Dec. 31, 1999, at the pyramids in Egypt to mark the year 2000, has sent out invitations to among others, Prince Harry, who will be 15, and President Reagan, who will be 83.

**SunLife of Canada**

One of the world's largest life assurance companies

CALL 01-930 5400

**DEATHS (Continued)**

**COOK**—On Dec. 23, 1984, at St. Mary's Hospital, London, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Cook, a son, James John Cook, 10.5 lb, 54 in. long.

**COOPER**—On Dec. 22, at St. Mary's Hospital, London, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Cooper, a son, James John Cooper, 10.5 lb, 54 in. long.

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